

THE COUNTY OF COLUSA
HOUSING ELEMENT UPDATE OF THE GENERAL PLAN

Notice of Intent to Adopt a Negative Declaration/Initial Study

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the County of Colusa has prepared a Negative Declaration, pursuant to the requirements of CEQA, for the County of Colusa Housing Element Update of the General Plan. The proposed Negative Declaration and Initial Study, as well as referenced documents, are available for review at the County of Colusa Department of Planning and Building, 220 – 12th Street, Colusa, CA 95932 or in the Housing Element section of the County's General Plan Update website at: <http://www.countyofcolusageneralplan.org>.

Project Location: The County of Colusa is located in the Central Valley and Coast Ranges of northern California. The County seat, Colusa, is located approximately 50 miles northwest of Sacramento. The proposed project location is the entire unincorporated area of the County, including the communities of Arbuckle, Grimes, Maxwell, Princeton, and Stonyford and the areas adjacent the incorporated cities of Colusa and Williams.

Project Description: The County of Colusa Housing Element update would revise the County's Housing Element consistent with the requirements of state law. The Housing Element identifies the County's housing goals and policies, as well as identifying the programs the County plans to implement through 2014. The Housing Element Background Report (Chapters 1 through 6) provides an introduction to the document, summarize existing conditions, describe the regulatory framework and constraints relevant to housing, and inventory existing resources available for housing, including available sites under existing General Plan designations and zoning districts.

Findings/Determination: The County has reviewed and considered the proposed project and has determined that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment, with substantial supporting evidence provided in the Initial Study. The County hereby prepares and proposes to adopt a Negative Declaration for this project.

Public Review Period: A 30 day public review period for the Negative Declaration/ Initial Study will commence on **September 13, 2010 and will end on October 13, 2010** for interested individuals and public agencies to submit written comments on the document. Any written comments on the Initial Study/ Negative Declaration should be sent to the attention of Steve Hackney, Director of Building and Planning and must be received at 220 12th Street, Colusa, CA 95932 by 5:00 PM on October 13, 2010.

Dated this 7th day of September, 2010

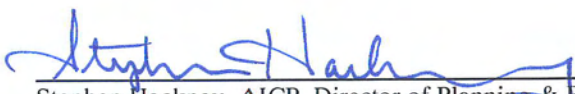
By: 
Stephen Hackney, AICP, Director of Planning & Building,
220 12th Street, Colusa, CA 95932, (530) 458-0480

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INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

PROJECT TITLE

Colusa County Housing Element Update

LEAD AGENCY NAME AND ADDRESS

County of Colusa
220 12th Street
Colusa, CA 95932

CONTACT PERSON AND PHONE NUMBER

Steve Hackney
Director of Planning and Building
Colusa County
220 12th Street
Colusa, CA 95932
(530) 458-0480

PROJECT SPONSOR'S NAME AND ADDRESS

County of Colusa
220 12th Street
Colusa, CA 95932

PROJECT LOCATION AND SETTING

Colusa County encompasses approximately 1,156 square miles in north central California, of which 1,151 square miles are land and six square miles are water. The eastern part of the county is located in the Sacramento Valley, the western portion is in the Klamath/North Coast Range. See Figure 1 for the regional location of Colusa County.

Existing land uses in Colusa County are primarily agricultural. The land use pattern is typical of rural counties of the Sacramento Valley. A checkerboard of large acreage farms dominates the eastern half of the County, with land ownership and road alignments mostly following square mile section lines. The land is generally flat and is covered by fields of rice, orchards, and row crops. Views are expansive, framed only by the rolling foothills of the Coast Range on the west and jagged peaks of the Sutter Buttes on the east. As one moves west through the county, large farms give way to much larger cattle and sheep ranches, cultivated fields give way to arid rangeland, and the flat terrain transitions into rolling hills and spectacular upland valleys. Further west, the land becomes yet more rugged and wild, until finally reaching the summit of Snow Mountain in the wilderness area at 7,000 feet above the valley floor.

There are two incorporated cities in Colusa County: Colusa and Williams. The project area is the unincorporated portion of Colusa County, which includes the communities of Arbuckle, College City, Grimes, Maxwell, Princeton, Stonyford, and Century Ranch as well as the remaining rural areas. See Figure 2.

GENERAL PLAN AND ZONING

COLUSA COUNTY GENERAL PLAN

The Colusa County General Plan provides a range of residential building types and densities in various areas of the County. Below is a brief description of the General Plan land use designations that would accommodate the County's fair share of regional housing needs.

Rural-Residential (RR). This designation applies to areas that are generally semi-rural, but where land ownership patterns have already precluded agricultural uses. The RR designation is located in areas immediately adjacent to the six major communities within the County and on partially developed non-sewered residential areas. Average residential densities are from one unit per acre to one unit per ten acres, with the ability to cluster development on sites.

Urban-Residential (UR). This designation applies to areas where domestic sewer and water systems are available or can be made available to support residential development. Densities are generally one to five units per acre. However, since UR areas include apartments and mobile home parks, densities may be much higher in limited locations. Each UR area contains a range or zoning classifications, from the R-1 single family district to the R-4 apartment district.

COLUSA COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE

The Zoning Ordinance identifies five residential districts, and eight other zones that allow residential development. Additionally, there is a combining district that allows residential uses. Some zones have varying zoning treatments, or sub-zones. Below is a brief description of each of the aforementioned zones.

Residential Zones

Rural Residential (R-R). The rural residential or R-R zone is intended to be applied in areas of the county which are particularly suited to large-lot development of single-family homes not normally connected to public sewer and water supply. The principal permitted uses include single-family homes.

Residential Single-Family (R-1). The residential single-family or R-1 zone is intended to be applied in areas of the county in which topography, access, utilities, public services and general conditions make the areas suitable and desirable for development of property with one single-family residence per parcel. The principal permitted uses include single-family dwellings and accessory structures, and rooming and boarding of not more than two persons not employed on the premises. This zone includes R-1-6, which requires a minimum lot size of six thousand square feet where both public water and sewerage services are provided, and R-1-8, which requires a minimum lot size of eight thousand square feet where both public water and sewerage services are provided.

Residential Two-Family (R-2). The residential two-family or R-2 zone is intended to be applied in areas of the county close to urban centers where all utilities and services are available and where housing demand justifies a density of two families on each building lot. Principal permitted uses include single-family dwellings, two-family or duplex dwellings, and rooming and boarding of not more than two persons not employed on the premises.

Residential Multiple Family (R-3). The residential multiple family or R-3 zone is intended to apply in areas of the county where it is reasonable to permit and protect low density apartment developments. Principal permitted uses include single-family and two-family or duplex dwellings, dwelling groups and multi-family dwellings for not more than four families per building lot. Uses allowed with a use permit include motels, mobile home parks, rooming and boarding houses.

Apartment-Professional (R-4). The apartment-professional or R-4 zone is intended to apply in areas suitable for higher density residential uses and for professional and business offices and institutional uses. Principal permitted uses include single-family, two-family and multiple dwelling and dwelling groups, boarding and rooming houses, and hotels and motels. Uses allowed with a use permit include mobile home parks.

Other Zones that Allow Residential Uses

Agriculture Preserve (A-P). The agriculture preserve or A-P zone is intended to be applied in areas where agriculture is the natural and desirable primary land use and where the protection of agriculture from the encroachment of incompatible uses is essential to the general welfare. The principal permitted uses includes the main single-family dwelling for the landowner or the primary tenant of the property and guest houses not rented or otherwise conducted as a business. Uses allowed with a use permit include single-family dwelling units for immediate relatives of the property owner, caretakers or farm labor housing, and residential mobile homes.

Exclusive Agriculture (E-A). The exclusive agriculture or E-A zone is intended to be applied in areas of fertile soils and areas where agriculture is the natural and desirable primary land use, and in which areas the protection of agriculture from the encroachment of incompatible uses is essential to the general welfare. The principal permitted uses includes the main single-family dwelling for the landowner or the primary tenant of the property and guest houses not rented or otherwise conducted as a business. Uses allowed with a use permit include single-family dwelling units for immediate relatives of the property owner, caretakers or farm labor housing, and residential mobile homes.

Upland Conservation (U-C). The upland conservation or U-C zone is intended to be applied in the mountain and upland foothill areas of the county in which forestry, mining, grazing and recreation are natural and desirable uses, and in which protection of the watershed lands from fire, erosion, pollution and other detrimental effects is essential to the general welfare. The principal permitted uses includes the main single-family dwelling for the landowner or the primary tenant of the property and guest houses not rented or otherwise conducted as a business. Uses allowed with a use permit include single-family dwelling units for immediate relatives of the property owner, caretakers or farm labor housing, and residential mobile homes. Uses allowed with a use permit include motels and trailer parks.

Neighborhood Commercial (C-1). The neighborhood commercial or C-1 zone is intended to provide for neighborhood shopping centers which will provide convenient sales and service facilities to residential areas, without detracting from the residential desirability of such areas. Uses allowed with a use permit include dwellings, hotels, motels, boarding and rooming houses, and mobile home parks.

Community Commercial (C-2). The community commercial or C-2 zone is intended to apply to areas where more complete commercial facilities are necessary for community convenience.

Uses allowed with a use permit include dwellings, hotels, motels, boarding and rooming houses, and mobile home parks.

Highway Service Commercial (C-H). The highway service commercial or C-H zone is intended to provide necessary services and conveniences for the traveling public along main roads and highway frontages at proper intervals and locations in developments designed for safety, convenience and suitable appearance. Principal permitted uses include hotels and motels. Uses allowed with a use permit include dwellings, boarding & rooming houses and mobile home parks.

Floodplain (F-P). The floodplain or F-P zone is intended to be applied to areas other than floodway areas which have been inundated by overflow floodwaters in the past and which may reasonably be expected to be inundated by such floodwaters in the future. The floodplain zone is intended to limit the use of areas subject to such inundation and flooding to protect lives and property from loss, destruction and damage due to floodwaters and to the transportation by water of wreckage and debris. Uses allowed with a use permit include residential uses, including farm dwellings, and trailer camps and mobile home parks.

General Recreation (G-R). The general recreation or G-R zone is intended to be applied to land areas which are best suited to be used and developed for recreation purposes because of natural features related or contributing to such use. Principal permitted uses include farm dwellings. Uses allowed with a use permit include dwellings, resorts, motels, trailer parks, and mobile home parks.

Special Combining Zones

Planned development (P-D). The purpose of the planned development is to provide for greater flexibility in the design of developments than is otherwise possible through the strict application of zoning district regulations. It is the intent of this process to ensure compliance with the general plan and to provide various types of land use which can be combined in compatible relationship with each other as a part of a totally planned development. Planned development may be residential, commercial or industrial and may permit mixed uses under certain circumstances. Where property is zoned P-D as a distinct zoning district, any use or combination of uses which are so arranged or designed as to result in an overall development of unusual excellence which might not otherwise be feasible or possible may be permitted with a use permit. A project is not required to received a Planned Development overlay; this overlay may be requested by any developer requesting uses or a design features may not be permitted in the underlying zoning district under normal circumstances. However, the Planned Development overlay does not allow individual developments to create development standards unique to a development in order to accommodate unique or unusual design features nor does the Planned Development overlay set forth development standards that differ from those that would be required of a development without a Planned Development overlay. Furthermore, the Zoning Ordinance's description of the Planned Development overlay is cumbersome and, in areas, ambiguous. The Planned Development overlay language should be revised to be clear and understandable as well as to identify how the overlay will accommodate unique design features or projects that would otherwise not be permitted in the Zoning Ordinance. While the Planned Development overlay does not constrain the cost or supply of housing since it is an overlay that may be voluntarily requested by a developer, the Housing Plan includes a program to remove ambiguities and make the Planned Development overlay a more effective tool to promote affordable housing and housing projects with unique design requirements.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Colusa County Housing Element update would revise the County's Housing Element consistent with the requirements of state law. Government Code Section 65583 requires that the Housing Element include the following components:

- A review of the previous element's goals, policies, programs, and objectives to ascertain the effectiveness of each of these components, as well as the overall effectiveness of the Housing Element.
- An assessment of housing needs and an inventory of resources and constraints related to the meeting of these needs.
- An analysis and program for preserving assisted housing developments.
- A statement of community goals, quantified objectives, and policies relative to the preservation, improvement, and development of housing.
- A program which sets forth a schedule of actions that the County is undertaking or intends to undertake, in implementing the policies set forth in the Housing Element to identify adequate sites to accommodate the housing needs of all economic segments of the community. The program must do all of the following:
 - Identify actions that will be taken to make adequate sites available to accommodate the County's share of the regional housing need, if the need could not be accommodated by the existing inventory of residential sites;
 - Assist in the development of adequate housing to meet the needs of extremely low, very low, low, and moderate income households;
 - Address and, where appropriate, remove governmental constraints to the maintenance, improvement, and development of housing;
 - Conserve and improve the condition of the existing affordable housing stock;
 - Promote housing opportunities for all persons regardless of race, religion, sex, marital status, ancestry, national origin, color, familial status, or disability; and
 - Preserve assisted housing developments for lower income households.

HOUSING ELEMENT CONTENTS

The Colusa County Housing Element consists of six chapters (the Housing Element Background Report) and a Housing Element. The Housing Element identifies the County's housing goals and policies, as well as identifying the programs the County plans to implement through 2014. Chapters 1 through 6 provide an introduction to the document, summarize existing conditions, describe the regulatory framework and constraints relevant to housing, and inventory existing resources available for housing, including available sites under existing General Plan designations and zoning districts. Appendices A and B identify single-family and multi-family residential sites that are currently vacant or underdeveloped based on existing General Plan designations and zoning districts, which may accommodate the housing needs identified in the Housing Element. These chapters do not involve any changes to existing conditions and do not have the potential to affect the environment.

Housing Plan

The Housing Plan, which is found in the first section of the Housing Element, is the County's commitment to specific actions in order to maintain and improve the County's existing housing supply, promote development of housing affordable to all income levels and special needs populations, require non-discrimination in housing, and meet the requirements of State law related to housing elements.

The Housing Plan identifies the following goals:

- Conserve and improve the County's existing communities, neighborhoods, and housing supply;
- Provide adequate sites and infrastructure to accommodate the County's housing needs;
- Facilitate and encourage development, through public and private resources, of high-quality housing to meet the County's housing needs for a range of incomes and special needs;
- Equal access to safe and decent housing for all income groups;
- Promotion of energy conservation activities in all residential areas.

For each goal, a set of policies and implementation measures are identified. Key features of the policies and programs in support of the goals of the Housing Plan are summarized below. The Housing Plan contains the full set of goals, policies and programs for the Housing Element Update.

- Encourage the maintenance and rehabilitation of residential areas and existing housing units.
 - Assist homeowners in identifying resources for housing stock improvement, including grants and non-profit organizations.
- Require and enforce conformance with local building codes to ensure the safety of the housing stock, encourage proper maintenance of public services in residential areas, and monitor the status of below-market rate housing units.
 - Assist owners of affordable housing units in identifying resources for the continued provision of affordable housing.
 - Regularly inspect housing units that receive complaints regarding health and safety problems and require compliance with applicable housing and building codes.
- Maintain an inventory of appropriately zoned and designated land to accommodate timely development of housing to meet the County's needs.
 - Ensure the continued designation of adequate lands for housing in the County's General Plan Update.
 - Encourage consolidation and development of small multi-family parcels and provide incentives for the development of multi-family housing.

- Ensure the provision of adequate public services to support new housing development.
 - Coordinate with cities to expand water and wastewater infrastructure within the spheres of influence.
 - Coordinate with local water and wastewater districts to improve supply, treatment and distribution infrastructure.
- Encourage the development of affordable housing for extremely low, very low, and low income and special needs households by removing governmental constraints, expediting the plan review process, providing incentives, and assist in securing funds or resources from State and federal housing assistance programs.
 - Provide incentives such as density bonuses, relaxation of development standards, and possible fee reductions.
 - Coordinate with local builders to encourage the development of affordable housing.
 - Revise the Zoning Ordinance to address and encourage development of group homes, manufactured housing, farmworker housing, emergency shelters, transitional housing, and second units.
- Support measures to eliminate housing discrimination on the basis of race, age, sex, marital status, ancestry, national origin, color, or sexual orientation.
- Encourage energy efficiency and conservation in residential development to ensure sustainable practices and reduce long-term housing costs.

None of these goals, policies, or implementation measures in the Housing Element would result in changes to the Colusa County General Plan Land Use Map or to the County-wide Zoning Map.

The policies and programs contained in the Housing Plan would maintain and improve the existing housing stock, provide incentives for affordable housing, promote energy efficiency, and remove constraints to providing housing for special needs households. The Housing Element includes programs to maintain adequate sites for housing and to bring the County's Zoning Code into compliance with state law regarding the permitting process for group homes, manufactured housing, farmworker housing, emergency shelters, transitional housing, and second units; these programs will change the permitting process but will not change the density or intensity of development allowed under the General Plan for which an EIR has been certified. The programs included in the Housing Element would not change the potential location of development, increase the intensity of development, or result in development that is not consistent with the growth allowed under the County's General Plan. The Housing Element does not propose any development.

Housing Element law requires the County to identify adequate sites to meet its regional housing needs allocation (RHNA) of 902 units. As described in Chapter 3 of the Housing Element, the County's existing General Plan designations and zoning districts would accommodate approximately 6,742 new residential units on various sites currently designated Urban Residential and Rural Residential by the General Plan. In order to accommodate its allocated housing needs, the County does not need to identify additional sites. It is noted that the County is not required under state law to construct, or cause the construction of, the RHNA and this

Housing Element does not obligate the County to construct 902 units. Housing will continue to be constructed at a pace and affordability levels dictated by the overall housing market and economy, based on demand for housing, availability of financing, willingness of property owners to sell or develop their land, and other factors beyond the County's control.

OTHER PUBLIC AGENCIES WHOSE APPROVAL IS REQUIRED (E.G., PERMITS, ETC.)

The County of Colusa will be the Lead Agency for the proposed project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Section 15050. No specific permits are required to approve the proposed project. However, the proposed project must be certified by the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) after adoption by the County of Colusa.

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

None of the environmental factors listed below would be potentially affected by this project, as described on the following pages.

	Aesthetics		Agriculture and Forest Resources		Air Quality
	Biological Resources		Cultural Resources		Geology/Soils
	Greenhouse Gasses		Hazards and Hazardous Materials		Hydrology/Water Quality
	Land Use/Planning		Mineral Resources		Noise
	Population/Housing		Public Services		Recreation
	Transportation/Traffic		Utilities/Service Systems		Mandatory Findings of Significance

DETERMINATION:

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

X	I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
	I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
	I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
	I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
	I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

Steve Hackney, Director of Planning and Building

Date

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

In each area of potential impact listed in this section, there are one or more questions which assess the degree of potential environmental effect. A response is provided to each question using one of the four impact evaluation criteria described below. A discussion of the response is also included.

- **Potentially Significant Impact.** This response is appropriate when there is substantial evidence that an effect is significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries, upon completion of the Initial Study, an EIR is required.
- **Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated.** This response applies when the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact". The Lead Agency must describe the mitigation measures and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level.
- **Less than Significant Impact.** A less than significant impact is one which is deemed to have little or no adverse effect on the environment. Mitigation measures are, therefore, not necessary, although they may be recommended to further reduce a minor impact.
- **No Impact.** These issues were either identified as having no impact on the environment, or they are not relevant to the Project.

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

This section of the Initial Study incorporates the most current Appendix "G" Environmental Checklist Form, contained in the CEQA Guidelines. Impact questions and responses are included in both tabular and narrative formats for each of the 18 environmental topic areas.

I. AESTHETICS -- WOULD THE PROJECT:

	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?			X	
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?			X	
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?			X	
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?			X	

RESPONSES TO CHECKLIST QUESTIONS

Response a-d): Less than Significant. Views of scenic resources, including the Sutter Buttes, Coastal Range, Sierra Nevada, scenic water resources, and other scenic resources in the county are available from highways and roadways throughout the County. Colusa County is largely defined by its rural agricultural setting. Much of the County is in active agricultural production, consisting of numerous farming operations, some of which cover thousands of contiguous acres of land. The County is also home to three National Wildlife Refuges, two National Wildlife Management Areas, one State Recreation Area, two State Wildlife Areas, three Land Conservancy Areas, and a wide variety of habitat types and surface water resources that contribute to the scenic beauty and quality of life in Colusa County. The proposed project does not entitle, approve, or otherwise require the construction of new development or rehabilitation of existing development. Furthermore, the County has adequate housing sites to accommodate its regional housing needs allocation over the current housing cycle. Because of this fact, it was not necessary to include any policies that require future rezoning of land to accommodate the regional housing needs. The goals, policy guidance, and implementation measures in the Housing Element Update would not result in any impact to scenic vistas or resources, would not degrade the visual character of the County, and would not cause light or glare impacts beyond what has already been contemplated in the General Plan for which an EIR is certified.

II. AGRICULTURE AND FOREST RESOURCES: WOULD THE PROJECT:

	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?			X	
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?			X	
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 1222(g)) or timberland (as defined in Public Resources Code section 4526)?				X
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?				X
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?			X	

RESPONSES TO CHECKLIST QUESTIONS

Response a): Less than Significant Impact. In 2009, the Colusa County Assessor classified 571,195 acres, 79%, of the unincorporated County's land area as agricultural. The Colusa County Agricultural Commission identifies 434,400 acres as cropland and 206,600 acres as underdeveloped rangeland. Within these agricultural classifications, farmland is used for a variety of crops, livestock, and other agriculturally-related activities. Approximately 558,591 acres of agricultural land in Colusa County is designated as Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland or Farmland of Statewide Importance, as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency.

The proposed project does not entitle, approve, or otherwise require the construction of new development or rehabilitation of existing development. Furthermore, the County has adequate housing sites to accommodate its regional housing needs allocation over the current housing cycle. Because of this fact, it was not necessary to include any policies that require future rezoning of agricultural lands to accommodate the regional housing needs. The goals, policy guidance, and implementation measures in the Housing Element Update would not result in any conversion of agricultural lands beyond what has already been contemplated in the General Plan for which an EIR is certified. Implementation of the proposed project would have a less than significant impact on Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance.

Response b): Less than Significant Impact. Approximately 317,796 acres, or about 55.6 percent of the County's assessed agricultural land, is under some form of Williamson Act contract with Colusa County. The proposed project does not propose any changes to General

Plan land use designations or zoning districts, and would have a less than significant on zoning for agricultural use. Implementation of the proposed project will have a less than significant impact on Williamson Act contracts.

Response c) and d): No Impact. Colusa County has approximately 23,000 acres of timber, which represents approximately 0.1 percent of the state's timber resources, according to the California Department of Fire and Forestry's 1996 assessment, which is most recent assessment with timber data available for Colusa County. Limited data is available regarding the timber resources in the County. The majority of timber lands, 21,000 acres, are located on federal lands in the County and the remaining 2,000 acres are on privately held lands (CalFIRE, 2009). None of the timber lands are in a designated Timber Production Zone. The proposed project does not entitle, approve, or otherwise require the construction of new development or rehabilitation of existing development. Furthermore, the County has adequate housing sites to accommodate its regional housing needs allocation over the current housing cycle. Because of this fact, it was not necessary to include any policies that require future rezoning of lands to accommodate the regional housing needs. The goals, policy guidance, and implementation measures in the Housing Element Update would not result in any conversion of lands suitable for timber harvesting. Implementation of the proposed project would have no impact on timber resources or lands designated as forest land.

Response e): Less than Significant Impact. Refer to responses a) – d) above.

III. AIR QUALITY -- WOULD THE PROJECT:

	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?			X	
b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?			X	
c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?			X	
d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?			X	
e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?			X	

RESPONSES TO CHECKLIST QUESTIONS

Responses a-e): Less Than Significant. The proposed project does not entitle, approve, or otherwise require the construction of new development or rehabilitation of existing development. Furthermore, the County has adequate housing sites to accommodate its regional housing needs allocation over the current housing cycle. Because of this fact, it was not necessary to include any policies that require future rezoning of land to accommodate the regional housing needs. While the Housing Element accommodates residential development, it plans for residential development consistent with intensities and densities allowed under the Zoning Code and allowed under the General Plan, for which an EIR has been certified. The Housing Element Update will not impact the rate or intensity of development, but may result in broadening the range of affordability levels and special needs population that may reside in housing; these issues will not affect the potential for impacts to air quality. Therefore, the proposed project will not have any significant air quality impacts. The Housing Element Update does encourage energy-efficiency, which may result in an indirect improvement to air quality. The project would not result in any significant indirect or cumulatively adverse impacts on air quality.

The proposed project would not conflict with or obstruct the implementation of the air quality plan, or violate any air quality standard. Additionally, the proposed project would not expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations or objectionable odors.

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES -- WOULD THE PROJECT:

	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?			X	
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations by the California Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service?			X	
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?			X	
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?			X	
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?			X	
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?			X	

RESPONSES TO CHECKLIST QUESTIONS

Response a-d): Less than Significant. Natural and agricultural communities both provide a variety of habitat for the biological resources in Colusa County. Sensitive habitats include those that are of special concern to resource agencies or those that are protected under federal, state, or local regulations.

Colusa County is a biologically diverse part of the state. According to the California Wildlife Habitat Relationship System there are 24 cover types (wildlife habitat classifications) in Colusa County out of 59 found in the state. These include: Agricultural, Annual Grassland, Barren, Blue Oak Woodland, Blue Oak-Foothill Pine, Chamise-Redshank Chaparral, Closed-Cone Pine-Cypress, Douglas Fir, Fresh Emergent Wetland, Klamath Mixed Conifer, Mixed Chaparral, Montane Chaparral, Montane Hardwood, Montane Hardwood-Conifer, Montane Riparian, Ponderosa Pine, Red Fir, Riverine, Urban, Valley Foothill Riparian, Valley Oak Woodland, Water, Wet Meadow, and White Fir.

The California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDDB) search identified several documented special-status species within Colusa County. All species are presumed present at any given time throughout their habitat range. Some species require localized micro-habitats, while others are highly mobile and may occur throughout the County. Documented special status species with their protective status and habitat requirements are summarized in Appendix A at the end of this Initial Study.

Impact Summary. The proposed project does not entitle, approve, or otherwise require the construction of new development or rehabilitation of existing development. The County has adequate housing sites to accommodate its regional housing needs allocation over the current housing cycle. Because of this fact, it was not necessary to include any policies that require future rezoning of land to accommodate the regional housing needs. The goals, policies, and implementation measures in the Housing Element Update would not result in any impact to any special status species, any impact to riparian or other sensitive habitats, including wetlands, or any impact to migration routes for wildlife species in the region. Future development potential in the County would continue to be consistent with the intensities and densities allowed under the Zoning Code and what has already been addressed in the General Plan for which an EIR is certified. Implementation of the proposed project would have a less than significant impact on this environmental topic.

Responses e-f): Less than Significant. The Housing Element Update has been prepared to be consistent with the County’s adopted General Plan and ordinances. Future development projects would be required to be consistent with local policies and ordinances. A Habitat Conservation Plan for Colusa County has not been adopted, and as such, there is no potential for conflict with this document. Habitat conservation efforts led by the State and federal governments in Colusa County occur on land that is designated Resource Conservation by the County General Plan. Housing is not allowed within these lands. Implementation of the proposed project would have a less than significant impact on this environmental topic.

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES -- WOULD THE PROJECT:

	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in '15064.5?			X	
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to '15064.5?			X	
c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?			X	
d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?			X	

RESPONSES TO CHECKLIST QUESTIONS

Response a-d): Less than Significant. The proposed project does not entitle, approve, or otherwise require the construction of new development or rehabilitation of existing development. The County has adequate housing sites to accommodate its regional housing needs allocation over the current housing cycle. Because of this fact, it was not necessary to include any policies that require future rezoning of land to accommodate the regional housing needs. While future residential development may affect these resources, the Housing Element plans for residential development consistent with intensities and densities allowed under the Zoning Code and allowed under the General Plan, for which an EIR has been certified. The Housing Element Update does not change the potential location or intensity of development. The goals, policies, and implementation measures in the Housing Element Update would not result in any impact to cultural, paleontological, or archaeological resources or human remains. Implementation of the proposed project would have a less than significant impact on this environmental topic.

VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS -- WOULD THE PROJECT:

	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant with Mitigation</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.			X	
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?			X	
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?			X	
iv) Landslides?			X	
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?			X	
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?			X	
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?			X	
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?			X	

RESPONSES TO CHECKLIST QUESTIONS

Responses a-d): Less than Significant. Colusa County lies on the boundary between the Great Central Valley and Coast Ranges Geomorphic Provinces. At its lowest, the elevation in eastern Colusa County is approximately 40 feet above sea level. Snow Mountain, in northwestern Colusa County has an elevation of slightly over 7,000 feet. While the county tends to increase in elevation from east to west, the higher elevations of the Coast Ranges are fragmented by alluvial valleys in places.

While it has experienced ongoing sedimentation since the Jurassic, the Central Valley is generally described as Quaternary sedimentary deposits. The Quaternary alluvial deposits of the Central Valley occupy the eastern one-half of the county. Alluvial deposits are found in northwestern Colusa County along Stony Creek. Finally, alluvial deposits are found in western Colusa County along Bear Creek. The Coast Ranges, which occupy western Colusa County, are dominated by Mesozoic sedimentary shelf and slope rocks and the Franciscan Formation. In

addition, serpentized ultramafic rocks are found along the western boundary of the Franciscan Formation.

The geographic distribution of earthquake activity is referred to as seismicity. Seismicity can result in hazards caused by fault displacement and rupture, ground shaking, liquefaction, lateral spreading, and landslides. Seismicity is generally measured based on the amount of energy released at a fault.

Seismicity is directly related to the distribution of fault systems within a region. Depending on activity patterns, faults and fault-related geologic features may be classified as active, potentially active, or inactive. The entire state of California is considered seismically active and is susceptible to seismic ground shaking, however, the most highly active fault zones are along the coastal areas. Thus, while there are no known active faults within the county, the area could experience considerable ground shaking generated by faults outside Colusa County.

Fault Rupture. A fault rupture occurs when the surface of the earth breaks as a result of an earthquake, although this does not happen with all earthquakes. These ruptures generally occur in a weak area of an existing fault. Ruptures can be sudden (i.e. earthquake) or slow (i.e. fault creep). The Alquist-Priolo Fault Zoning Act requires active earthquake fault zones to be mapped and it provides special development considerations within these zones. . While it is possible for a fault rupture throughout seismically active areas of California, there are no Alquist-Priolo Fault zones within Colusa County.

Seismic Ground Shaking. The potential for seismic ground shaking in California is expected. As a result of the foreseeable seismicity in California, the State requires special design considerations for all structural improvements in accordance with the seismic design provisions in the California Building Code. These seismic design provisions require enhanced structural integrity based on several risk parameters. Although there would be no housing that would directly result from the proposed project, any future housing under the General Plan would be built in accordance with the seismic design standards in the building code. As such, implementation of the proposed project would result in a less than significant impact from seismic ground shaking.

Liquefaction. Liquefaction typically requires a significant sudden decrease of shearing resistance in cohesionless soils and a sudden increase in water pressure, which is typically associated with an earthquake of high magnitude. The potential for liquefaction is highest when groundwater levels are high, and loose, fine, sandy soils occur at depths of less than 50 feet. The Sacramento River corridor presents the greatest likelihood of loose sediment and saturated soils within Colusa County. In contrast, eastern Colusa County is the least prone to strong seismic ground shaking. The Bear Valley area in western Colusa County is largely comprised of alluvium. Similarly, the Stony Creek Basin in the northwestern area of the county is comprised largely of alluvium. Alluvial deposits are also present, to a lesser degree, in the Funks Creek and Antelope Creek Basins.

Landslides. Landslides include rockfalls, deep slope failure, and shallow slope failure. Factors such as the geological conditions, drainage, slope, vegetation, and others directly affect the potential for landslides. One of the most common causes of landslides is construction activity that is associated with road building (i.e. cut and fill). The potential for landslides increases in the western portion of Colusa County, where slopes increase.

Lateral Spreading. Lateral spreading typically results when ground shaking moves soil toward an area where the soil integrity is weak or unsupported, and it typically occurs on the surface of a slope, although it does not occur strictly on steep slopes. Oftentimes, lateral spreading is directly associated with areas of liquefaction. Colusa County is considered to be at a low risk of hazards of lateral spreading.

Erosion. Erosion naturally occurs on the surface of the earth as surface materials (i.e. rock, soil, debris, etc.) is loosened, dissolved, or worn away, and transported from one place to another by gravity. Two common types of soil erosion include wind erosion and water erosion. The steepness of a slope is an important factor that affects soil erosion. Erosion potential in soils is influenced primarily by loose soil texture and steep slopes. Loose soils can be eroded by water or wind forces, whereas soils with high clay content are generally susceptible only to water erosion. The potential for erosion generally increases as a result of human activity, primarily through the development of facilities and impervious surfaces and the removal of vegetative cover.

Expansive Soils. Expansive soils are those that shrink or swell with the change in moisture content. The volume of change is influenced by the quantity of moisture, by the kind and amount of clay in the soil, and by the original porosity of the soil. Shrinking and swelling can damage roads and structures unless special engineering design is incorporated into the project plans.

The proposed project does not propose the construction of new development or rehabilitation of existing development. The County has adequate housing sites to accommodate its regional housing needs allocation over the current housing cycle. Because of this fact, it was not necessary to include any policies that require future rezoning of land to accommodate the regional housing needs. While future residential development may affect these resources, any future development would be consistent with the intensities and densities allowed under the Zoning Code and what has already been addressed in the General Plan for which an EIR is certified. The Housing Element Update does not change the potential location or intensity of development. The goals, policies, and implementation measures in the Housing Element Update would not result in development in areas not considered for residential or mixed-use development in the General Plan and would not expose any persons or structures to hazards associated with seismic occurrences or expansive soils, nor would the project result in erosion impacts. Implementation of the proposed project would have a less than significant impact on this environmental topic.

Response e): Less than Significant Impact. Given the rural nature of Colusa County, many residences are currently served by onsite septic systems to meet their wastewater disposal needs. Future development of the available housing sites identified in the Housing Element Update may also rely on onsite septic systems, where connections to municipal systems are not available. The design and engineering of septic systems in California are regulated by AB 885, which establishes design and performance standards for septic systems to reduce impacts to water quality and to ensure that systems are installed in soils capable of handling percolation from septic leach fields. Compliance with the requirements of AB 885 would ensure that future development in the County that includes the use of onsite septic systems would result in less than significant impacts to this environmental topic.

VII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS – WOULD THE PROJECT:

	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?			X	
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gasses?			X	

RESPONSES TO CHECKLIST QUESTIONS

Responses a) and b): Less than Significant. The proposed project does not entitle, approve, or otherwise require the construction of new development or rehabilitation of existing development. Furthermore, the County has adequate housing sites to accommodate its regional housing needs allocation over the current housing cycle. Because of this fact, it was not necessary to include any policies that require future rezoning of land to accommodate the regional housing needs. The Housing Element accommodates residential development consistent with intensities and densities allowed under the Zoning Code and allowed under the General Plan, for which an EIR has been certified. The Housing Element Update will not impact the rate or intensity of development, but may result in broadening the range of affordability levels and special needs population that may reside in housing; these issues will not affect the potential for impacts to climate change or generate greenhouse gasses. Therefore, the proposed project will not have greenhouse gas impacts. The Housing Element Update does encourage energy-efficiency, which may result in an indirect improvement to climate change and reduce the generation of greenhouses gasses over the long term. The project would not result in any indirect or cumulatively adverse impacts to climate change.

There is not an adopted plan in Colusa County related to the reduction of greenhouse gasses. The proposed project is consistent with all State and federal plans related to the reduction of greenhouse gasses.

VIII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS -- WOULD THE PROJECT:

	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?				X
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?				X
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?				X
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?			X	
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?			X	
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?			X	
g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?				X
h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?			X	

RESPONSES TO CHECKLIST QUESTIONS

Responses a-c): No Impact. A “hazardous material” is a substance or combination of substances that, because of its quantity, concentration, or physical, chemical, or infectious characteristics, may pose a potential hazard to human health or the environment when handled improperly. The proposed project does not entitle, approve, or otherwise require new development or any use that would result in the transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials. Furthermore, the proposed project would not result in a foreseeable upset, accident, or emission of hazardous materials. Implementation of the proposed project would have a less than significant impact on this environmental topic.

Responses d): Less than Significant. The CA Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) maintains the *Envirostor Data Management System*, which provides information on hazardous waste facilities (both permitted and corrective action) as well as any available site cleanup information. The following sites are documented within Colusa County:

<i>Envirostor</i>	Site/Facility	Type	Status	City
6070014	Colusa County Fair	Voluntary	Refer: RWQCB	Colusa
6490001	PG&E MGP	State Response	Active	Colusa
6070008	Thayer Aviation	Voluntary	Action Required	Grimes

None of the above-listed sites are proposed for residential development in the General Plan and the proposed project does not provide any policy guidance that would change the use of these sites. Implementation of the proposed project would have a less than significant impact on this environmental topic.

Response e-f): Less than Significant. The primary airport in the Planning Area is the Colusa County Airport. In addition to the County Airport, the Federal Aviation Administration identifies eight private airstrip facilities within the County. The County Airport is located just west of SR 45, about two miles south of the City of Colusa. The airport, which is located on ±80 acres, is home to a single paved runway that measures 3,000 feet long. The operations estimate for the airport is approximately 30,000 flights per year. Less than half of the airport's operations consist of general aviation, as the majority of the annual flights are related to agricultural aerial applications.

The proposed project does not entitle, approve, or otherwise require the construction of new development or rehabilitation of existing development. The County has adequate housing sites to accommodate its regional housing needs allocation over the current housing cycle. Because of this fact, it was not necessary to include any policies that require future rezoning of land to accommodate the regional housing needs. All of the housing sites identified within the Housing Element Update are located on lands that have been previously designated for residential uses, and are consistent with the safety requirements of the County's Airport Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP). Any future development would be consistent with what has already been addressed in the General Plan for which an EIR is certified, and would be consistent with the CLUP. The Housing Element Update does not change the potential location or intensity of development. The goals, policies, and implementation measures in the Housing Element Update would not result in development in areas that are subject to risks for airport operations. Implementation of the proposed project would have a less than significant impact on this environmental topic.

Response g): No Impact. The proposed project would not impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. Implementation of the proposed project would have no impact on this environmental topic.

Response h): Less than Significant. Wild fires are a major hazard in the State of California. Wild fires burn natural vegetation on developed and undeveloped lands and include timber, brush, woodland, and grass fires. While low intensity wild fires have a role in the ecosystem, wild fires put human health and safety, structures (e.g., homes, schools, businesses, etc.), air quality, recreation areas, water quality, wildlife habitat and ecosystem health, and forest resources at risk.

Wildland fire hazards exist in varying degrees over much of the western portions of Colusa County. The highest wild fire risk to human health and safety occurs in the mountainous communities near the Mendocino National Forest, including the community of Stonyford. This area is considered urban-wildland interface. Fires that occur within the urban-wildland interface areas affect natural resources as well as life and property.

The proposed project does not entitle, approve, or otherwise require the construction of new development or rehabilitation of existing development. The County has adequate housing sites to accommodate its regional housing needs allocation over the current housing cycle. Because of this fact, it was not necessary to include any policies that require future rezoning of land to accommodate the regional housing needs. However, while the Housing Element accommodates residential development, it plans for residential development consistent with intensities and densities allowed under the Zoning Code and allowed under the General Plan, for which an EIR has been certified. The Housing Element Update does not change the potential location or intensity of development. The goals, policies, and implementation measures in the Housing Element Update would not result in any impact associated with fire hazards. Implementation of the proposed project would have a less than significant impact on this environmental topic.

IX. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY -- WOULD THE PROJECT:

	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?			X	
b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?			X	
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?			X	
d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?			X	
e) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?			X	
f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?			X	
g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?			X	
h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?			X	
i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?			X	
j) Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?			X	

RESPONSES TO CHECKLIST QUESTIONS

Response a-j): Less than Significant.

Wastewater Disposal and Water Quality Standards. Wastewater in Colusa County is treated and disposed of using one of several methods. The primary methods are onsite disposal and centralized disposal. There are five communities in the County served by centralized wastewater disposal systems: Arbuckle, Maxwell, Princeton, and the Cities of Colusa and Williams. The areas served by onsite systems (septic) are generally more rural or agricultural in nature. Although most onsite systems serve an individual dwelling or commercial establishment, some serve groups of homes or businesses. The County does not directly provide any wastewater collection or treatment services to residents or businesses. New development must either provide wastewater treatment from onsite sources (septic), or connect to one of the existing District wastewater systems.

Future development of the available housing sites identified in the Housing Element Update may also rely on onsite septic systems, where connections to municipal systems are not available. The design and engineering of septic systems in California are regulated by AB 885, which establishes design and performance standards for septic systems to reduce impacts to water quality and to ensure that systems are installed in soils capable of handling percolation from septic leach fields. Compliance with the requirements of AB 885 would ensure that future development in the County that includes the use of onsite septic systems would result in less than significant impacts to this environmental topic.

Groundwater. Water supplied to Colusa County comes from two sources: groundwater and surface water. All domestic water systems in the County are supplied with groundwater, while most irrigation systems are supplied with surface water from the Tehama-Colusa or Glenn-Colusa Canals, the Colusa Drain, or the Sacramento River. The surface water supplies available for use in Colusa County are significant. Surface water is used on 74 to 86 percent of the irrigated land within the Sacramento Valley portion of the County. Whereas, groundwater is used on 10 to 22 percent of that land. Of the land where groundwater is used, 6 to 11 percent is not within the service area of any organized entity.

There are community water systems located in Arbuckle, Maxwell, Princeton, Grimes, Stonyford, and the Cities of Colusa and Williams. There are also numerous private groundwater wells located throughout the County that serve individual parcels throughout the unincorporated areas of the County.

Water Agencies and Districts

Arbuckle Public Utility District. The Arbuckle Public Utility District provides domestic water service to 820 connections, or a population of approximately 2,500. Arbuckle has four groundwater wells, but generally only runs one or two at a time. The average amount of water pumped each day is approximately one million gallons, with a yearly total of approximately 350 million gallons. Total pumping capacity is 3.6 million gallons daily. The current system has the capacity to pump an additional 2.6 million gallons per day above existing pumping levels. This additional pumping capacity is adequate to serve approximately 2,132 additional connections without making any significant upgrades to the system. The existing water distribution infrastructure is in good working order. (Scheimer, 2009)

The current municipal water system in Arbuckle has adequate supply and distribution capacity to accommodate full development of all housing sites listed in the inventory. Individual

projects would require the expansion of distribution infrastructure to the project site, but upgrades to the overall system would not be required.

Colusa County Waterworks District #1. The Colusa County Waterworks District #1 provides potable water to 100 residential connections, 5 commercial connections, and one agricultural connection in the community of Grimes. The District has one primary well 223 feet deep, and one back-up well. The District provides approximately 36 million gallons of water annually. July is the peak flow month with 5 million gallons. The water supply infrastructure in the District is comprised of pipes ranging in size from 2-inch to 8-inch diameter. While the 2-inch pipes are generally PVC or metal, the larger pipes are generally asbestos-concrete (“AC”). Water is treated with sodium hypochlorite for Coliform bacteria. The Colusa County Waterworks District #1 also provides water to 10 fire hydrants as part of an agreement with the Sacramento River Fire Protection District. However, this water is not sufficient to maintain fire flows and the Sacramento River Fire Protection District must also rely on water tenders to help achieve adequate supply.

On February 5, 2009 the Colusa County LAFCO presented a staff report to the LAFCO Commission regarding the Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Update for services provided by Colusa County Waterworks District #1. The MSR concluded that the proposed SOI will support planned land uses shown in the Colusa County General Plan and Zoning Code. The MSR further identifies the need for future upgrades to the water distribution system, and the establishment of a fee program to fund future infrastructure upgrades in order to ensure that adequate water is available in the future. The Housing Sites inventory identifies very few sites in the community of Grimes where additional housing may be located. Based on the LAFCO analysis of the water availability in the 2009 MSR, there are adequate supplies available to meet projected residential growth in this area, consistent with the County General Plan Land Use designations.

Maxwell Public Utility District. The District receives all water for municipal purposes from groundwater sources. The District pumps with a total of three wells and has an elevated steel storage tank with a 100,000-gallon storage capacity.

The District’s sources produce 1,550 gpm (of which 600 gpm meets drinking water standards but is not drinkable), well above the District’s annual, monthly and peak day demand of 119.17 million gallons (mg), 17.05 mg, and .64 mgd respectively. The District serves 463 connections (residential, commercial, and agricultural) for a total service population of 858 people.

In order to meet the increased demand that would be generated through development of the residential parcels identified in the housing sites inventory the District would need to add one or two new wells to the system. Additionally, new development sites would need to extend conveyance infrastructure to the site. The District has already begun engineering work and studies to establish a new well (Well #6). (Wadsworth, 2009)

It is feasible that this new well could be online and operational within 1-2 years, which would provide adequate water supplies to meet the needs of the housing sites inventory.

Princeton Water Works District. The Princeton Water Works District provides water service to approximately 110 residential and commercial customers. The District pumps 50,000 gallons per day in winter months and between 250,000 and 280,000 gallons per day in the summer months. The District is able to meet peak water usage of up to 300,000 gallons per day during high demand periods. The average peak water usage is 2,545 gallons per day. (LAFCO, 2007)

The initial distribution system infrastructure consisted of 4-inch welded steel pipe. The entire distribution system was reconstructed in 1984 with a combination of 4-inch (3,320 feet), 6-inch (6,050 feet) and 8-inch (2,100 feet), asbestos-cement pipe. The distribution system is currently in good working order. (LAFCO, 2007). Each well has a 1600-gallon pressure tank and chlorination system for a total combined storage of 3,200 gallons. The District's water pressure usually fluctuates between 45 to 65 pounds per square inch (psi) (LAFCO, 2007).

The District has adequate water capacity from two wells to serve the 110 existing connections (residential, schools and commercial) with average demands of 50,000 to 60,000 gpd in winter months, and 250,000 to 280,000 gpd in the summer months. According to the District, it can meet peak demands of up to 300,000 gpd, which is below the District's capacity of 320 gallons per minute. At 320 gpm, at peak flows, the district can pump up to 460,800 gallons per day. (LAFCO, 2007)

With respect to the number of additional connections, during peak summer usage days, a remaining pumping capacity of 180,800 gpd (460,800 gpd total pumping capacity -280,000 gpd peak demand= 180,800 gpd excess capacity) could support up to 71 more water connections (assuming current water usage of 2545 gpd, which is based on a peak usage of 280,000 divided by the number of connections being 110). (LAFCO, 2007) If more than 71 additional connections were required, the District would need to explore the possibility of adding new wells to the system. Groundwater levels in the area would support additional pumping from new wells.

City of Colusa. The City of Colusa provides potable water within the city limits, as well as the following areas outside of its boundaries: the Lurline Avenue area, the area east of Bridge Street, and restrooms at Moon Bend Road. The Walnut Ranch development, which is located in the City's SOI, currently receives water from the Del Oro Water Company. However, the analysis in the City's 2009 Water Master Plan assumes that this area will eventually receive treated water from the City. As described in the City's 2009 Water Master Plan (Eco:Logic, 2009), the City's well network has been gradually expanded over the years and now consists of five wells and a distribution system. The City relies on three of its wells to meet day to day demands and utilizes the two other wells as back-up supply. Two elevated tanks provide 0.25 million gallons (Mgal) of storage which supplements peak demands and maintains system pressure.

In summary, the City of Colusa has adequate water supplies and distribution infrastructure to meet existing demand for potable water. The Water Master Plan includes specific and detailed measures to increase water supplies to meet full buildout of the SOI, which would include all of the sites listed in the inventory. The Water Master Plan includes specific measures to amend the current water fee program and increase connection charges in order to fund the identified improvements to meet water demand for full buildout of the SOI. The City's water distribution system has been designed to provide for maximum flexibility regarding the location of new wells and connections to the water distribution system that runs around the perimeter of the City. New residential growth in the SOI, which includes the parcels in the inventory, would occur within the SOI in close proximity to existing water conveyance infrastructure. New residential development would be able to connect to the existing distribution system along the boundary of the City limits without the need to construct significant new conveyance infrastructure. By implementing the improvements identified in the Water Master Plan, the City of Colusa would ensure adequate supplies are available to meet new residential growth within the SOI. This does not pose a constraint to the development of housing within the Colusa SOI.

City of Williams. The City of Williams provides water service to 1,245 connections. The majority of these connections are residential. Only eight connections are outside of the city boundaries, in the unincorporated area of Colusa County. In 2008, water usage totaled 2,085,711 gallons. The City of Williams Public Works Department operates the water system. The system includes five wells, three of which are active while the other two wells are for stand-by only. The total capacity of all five wells totals 3,050 gpm. The system includes one 100,000 gallon water storage tank, but more storage capacity is needed. The average water usage is 13.5 million gallons per month. Peak usage in the summer is .814 million gallons per day and 20.7 million gallons per month. Using Well 5 exclusively, the City could pump 1.7 million gallons per day or .9 million gallons more than the current day usage (LAFCO, 2007). Two additional wells on the Plank Industrial Park on the recently annexed east side can each produce 2000 gallons per minute, equivalent to 5.7 million gallons per day.

The City's water distribution system consists of approximately 69,000 linear feet of 6- to 12-inch diameter pipeline. Approximately 15 percent of the distribution system was replaced in 1996, which eliminated undersized and failing pipeline. The existing water distribution system provides sufficient domestic and fire flows to the City. The City continues to upgrade the water distribution system as funding becomes available. The City of Williams has adequate water supply to meet the demands that would be generated by development of the housing inventory sites.

Small Water Systems

There are 54 water systems registered with the County Environmental Health Department. Most of these systems belong to roadside commercial establishments, hunting clubs or lodges, trailer courts, agricultural industries, labor camps, or isolated residential areas. Two of the larger residential systems serve Stonyford and Century Ranch.

Stonyford Water District. The Stonyford Water District is a County Service Area (CSA). The water system was upgraded in 2007-2008 to include a \$1.1 million water infiltration system. There are approximately 60 municipal hookups on the Stonyford system, 55 of which are private residences and five are allocated to the U.S. Forest Service. Water is drawn from two local wells, one of which serves as a backup to the primary well. The main well has a pumping capacity of 20 gpm, and both the main well and the backup well are in generally good condition. A 75,000 gallon containment tank is located adjacent to the main well, and a 300,000 gallon storage tank is located south of Stonyford, near the landfill. Water from the 300,000 gallon storage tank is conveyed from the tank to the municipal distribution system via a system of 8-inch and 10-inch line that feed into the 3-inch and 4-inch lines that connect directly to users. The larger distribution lines are relatively new and are in good condition, however, the smaller municipal conveyance lines are aging and in need of repair and upgrade.

Although water for the Stonyford system is pumped from the ground via wells, it has been determined by DWR and the Federal government that the water pumped from the ground is hydrogeologically connected to Stony Creek, and is therefore, classified as a surface water source. The Stonyford water system is allocated up to 40 acre feet/year of water from this source. The allocation between October 1 and May 31 is 30 ac/ft and the allocation between June 1 and September 31 is 10 ac/ft. The system has historically exceeded this allocation. However, once a tiered pricing system for water use was implemented there have not been exceedances of this allocation. The allocation of water to the Stonyford system is administered by the Federal Water Master, based in Orland, CA. New municipal hookups and the drilling of new wells require approval from the Federal Water Master, and applications are reviewed on a

case-by-case basis. In general, the current hookups use the majority of the annual water allocation, and growth in the area is constrained by a lack of available water. (Hackney, 2009)

County Service Area - Century Ranch. CSA #1 serves Century Ranch and is managed by Colusa County. CSA #1 currently does not have water available to serve development of new residential lots at Century Ranch. There are over 800 vacant lots in the Century Ranch subdivision. Until additional water is identified for new development, either through transfer of water rights or drilling of additional wells, residential lots may only be developed if the lot is capable of supporting an on-site well. Many of the larger lots in and adjacent to Century Ranch may be capable of supporting on-site wells. However, most of the lots within the subdivision are less than an acre and would have to be merged with other lots in order to support an on-site well. At this time, the lots at Century Ranch are not likely to accommodate a significant portion of the County's fair share of housing needs. There are adequate sites located in other communities to accommodate the County's housing needs during the planning period.

Drainage Patterns, Runoff, and Water Quality. New housing projects that are constructed in Colusa County are subject to the requirements of the County's General Plan and Zoning Ordinance. These documents include policies, programs and measures designed to protect water quality, drainage patterns and ensure that new residential development does not result in impacts to nearby water bodies. New construction is also required to avoid impacts to streams and other water bodies, and where avoidance is not feasible, must obtain the appropriate permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers or the California Department of Fish and Game to offset and mitigate any impacts to streams, rivers or water bodies. Additionally, the Regional Water Quality Control Board provides a list of measures and best management practices (BMPs) that must be adhered to during project construction activities. These measures ensure that pollutants and silt do not runoff the project site during construction activities.

Flood Hazard Areas. As with most Sacramento Valley counties, Colusa County is subject to flooding problems in its poorly-drained valley floor. Although Colusa County's foothill and upland areas generally do not experience severe flooding, drainage problems can occur in the western portion of the County. Runoff from impervious surfaces is also a concern in the county, particularly as the surface area of impervious cover increases when new development occurs.

Much of the area of eastern Colusa County between the Sacramento River and the Interstate 5 corridor is within the FEMA designated 100-year floodplain. The 100-year floodplain in Colusa County affects portions of the City of Colusa, the City of Williams, Arbuckle, Maxwell, Princeton, and Grimes.

The County General Plan contains numerous policies that aim to protect lives and property from flood damage. Additionally, County Code Chapter 33 includes provisions to protect lives and property from flood damage. The proposed project does not entitle, approve, or otherwise require the construction of new development or rehabilitation of existing development. The County has adequate housing sites to accommodate its regional housing needs allocation over the current housing cycle. Because of this fact, it was not necessary to include any policies that require future rezoning of land to accommodate the regional housing needs. While future residential development may affect these resources, any future development would be consistent with what has already been addressed in the General Plan for which an EIR is certified. The Housing Element Update does not change the potential location or intensity of development. The goals, policies, and implementation measures in the Housing Element

Update would not result in any impact associated with flooding hazards. Implementation of the proposed project would have a less than significant impact on this environmental topic.

Dam Failure. Five dams which retain water from tributaries of the Sacramento River could cause damage in Colusa County if their dams were to fail: Lake Oroville, Lake Shasta, Whiskeytown Lake, Black Butte Lake and East Park Reservoir. In the event of a major dam failure, much of eastern Colusa County could become inundated. A major earthquake centered close to a dam would be the most likely cause of failure. Dam Inundation maps have been required in California since 1972, following the 1971 San Fernando Earthquake and near failure of the Lower Van Norman Dam.

Lake Oroville, which is located in Butte County, would represent the most immediate threat to Colusa County in the event of a dam failure, as flood waters could reach the County within eight hours. Lake Shasta, in Shasta County, could cause the most extensive inundation, reaching as far west as Maxwell and College City in a period of 42 hours. Inundation from Whiskeytown Lake, located in Trinity County, would take over three days to reach Colusa County. Failure of the dam of Black Butte Lake, which is on the border of Glenn and Tehama Counties, could result in some inundation within a period of about 35 hours. The inundation from a failure of this dam would be less extensive than if the other above-referenced dams were to fail.

Failure of the dam at East Park Reservoir could cause minor inundation at the reservoir's outlet. The flood waters would flow into Glenn County; thus, its failure would not likely impact areas of Colusa County.

Impact Summary. Implementation of the County's Housing Element will not lead directly to new residential growth. The Housing Element does include policies and programs to encourage the development of additional housing in the County at allowable residential densities. The Housing Element update does not entitle, approve, or otherwise require the construction of new development or rehabilitation of existing development. The County has adequate housing sites to accommodate its regional housing needs allocation over the current housing cycle. Because of this fact, it was not necessary to include any policies that require future rezoning of land to accommodate the regional housing needs. However, while the Housing Element accommodates residential development, it plans for residential development consistent with intensities and densities allowed under the Zoning Code and allowed under the General Plan, for which an EIR has been certified. The Housing Element Update does not change the potential location or intensity of development. The goals, policies, and implementation measures in the Housing Element Update would not result in any new environmental impacts, including impacts to waste discharge violations or impacts to water quality standards or groundwater supplies, would not change runoff or drainage patterns, and would not place people or structures at risk of flooding, mud flow, or other hydrological hazards. Implementation of the proposed project would have a less than significant impact on this environmental topic.

X. LAND USE AND PLANNING - Would the project:

	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
a) Physically divide an established community?			X	
b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?			X	
c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?				X

RESPONSES TO CHECKLIST QUESTIONS

Responses a): Less than Significant Impact. Implementation of the Housing Element would not result in any changes to the Colusa County General Plan Land Use Map. The vacant parcels identified in the Housing Element that may be suitable for residential development in the County are scattered throughout the County and intermixed with or adjoining existing residential communities. Furthermore, the Housing Element does not entitle, approve, or require development of any projects. Implementation of the Housing Element would not result in any projects that would physically divide an established community. The impact is less than significant.

Response b): Less than Significant Impact. The analysis contained within the Housing Element demonstrates that the Housing Element is consistent with the County's General Plan. Both the General Plan and the proposed Housing Element have been thoroughly reviewed for internal consistency. The Housing Element does not conflict with any County goals, policies, programs, or other regulations adopted to avoid or reduce environmental impacts. The Housing Element would have a less than significant impact regarding potential conflicts with land use plans, policies, or regulations adopted to avoid or mitigate an environmental impact.

Response c): Less than Significant Impact. There is no applicable habitat conservation plan (HCP) adopted that affects the County of Colusa. There is no impact.

XI. MINERAL RESOURCES -- WOULD THE PROJECT:

	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?				X
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?				X

RESPONSES TO CHECKLIST QUESTIONS

Response a-b): No Impact. The Housing Element update does not entitle, approve, or require the construction of new development. The County has adequate housing sites that are designated for residential uses to accommodate its regional housing needs allocation over the current housing cycle. Because of this fact, it was not necessary to include any policies that require rezoning of land to accommodate the regional housing needs. The Housing Element would not reduce availability of mineral resources. However, while the Housing Element accommodates residential development, it plans for residential development consistent with intensities and densities allowed under the Zoning Code and allowed under the General Plan, for which an EIR has been certified. The Housing Element Update does not change the potential location or intensity of development. The goals, policies, and implementation measures in the Housing Element Update would not result in any new environmental impacts, including impacts to mineral resources. Implementation of the proposed project would have a less than significant impact on this environmental topic.

XII. NOISE -- Would the project result in:

	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?			X	
b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?			X	
c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?			X	
d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?			X	
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?			X	
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?			X	

RESPONSES TO CHECKLIST QUESTIONS

Responses a-f): Less than Significant. Implementation of the Housing Element could indirectly facilitate the construction of new housing in the future. The primary sources of noise associated with new housing development and operation are construction noise (short-term) and increased noise from vehicle traffic (operational). New residential construction would generate temporary short-term sources of noise that would be subject to the County's allowable construction time periods. Increases in noise associated with vehicle traffic would be relatively minor, as the majority of the new residential development anticipated over the life of the Housing Element would be spread throughout the County in relatively small development projects, which would disperse traffic throughout the County and not result in significant noise increases on County roadways. If larger residential projects are proposed, those projects would be subject to individual CEQA review, and a determination of potential noise impacts, and mitigation measures (if needed) would be identified. Development within the vicinity of the Colusa County Airport is subject to the rules and requirements of the Colusa County CLUP, which restricts residential development within the airport overflight zones and within certain noise contour boundaries.

However, while the Housing Element accommodates residential development, it plans for residential development consistent with intensities and densities allowed under the Zoning

Code and allowed under the General Plan, for which an EIR has been certified. These impacts are less than significant.

XIII. POPULATION AND HOUSING -- WOULD THE PROJECT:

	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?			X	
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?			X	
c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?			X	

RESPONSES TO CHECKLIST QUESTIONS

Responses a-c): Less than Significant. The proposed project provides policy guidance to facilitate housing development that is consistent with the County’s share of regional housing needs as determined by the State of California. The Housing Element demonstrates that the County does have adequate housing sites to accommodate the regional housing needs over the current housing cycle. Because of this fact, it was not necessary to include any policies that require future rezoning of land to accommodate the regional housing needs. The policy guidance would not result in any direct or indirect impacts on population growth, or displacement of people or housing beyond what has already been contemplated by the State Department of Finance and what would be allowed by the County’s adopted General Plan for which an EIR is certified. The proposed project does not specifically entitle, approve, or propose the construction of new development. Implementation of the proposed project would have a less than significant impact on this environmental topic.

XIV. PUBLIC SERVICES

	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
a) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:				
Fire protection?			X	
Police protection?			X	
Schools?			X	
Parks?			X	
Other public facilities?			X	

*RESPONSES TO CHECKLIST QUESTIONS***Responses a-e): Less than Significant.***Fire Protection*

Fire protection in Colusa County is provided by six rural fire districts, one city fire department, one joint powers authority, the California Department of Forestry (CDF), and the U.S. Forest Service. The majority of districts are staffed by volunteer firefighters. There are mutual aid agreements between most of the agencies to ensure adequate staff and equipment are available when a fire occurs.

The incidence of fire in the county is relatively low, particularly on the valley floor. The greatest hazards are in the forest area, which generally fall under the jurisdiction of state and federal agencies. The greatest threat of fire occurs annually during the months from June through October due to dry conditions and summer heat. Each summer, the CDF and U.S. Forest Service increase their staff in anticipation of brush and forest fires.

The rural fire protection districts are responsible for structural and wildfire protection as well as medical emergencies within their respective districts. Response times can range from one minute in the cities of Williams and Colusa to more than 20 minutes in the rugged mountain areas.

Police Protection

The unincorporated areas of Colusa County receive general public safety and law enforcement services from the Colusa County Sheriff's Department. The Sheriff's Department also operates the Office of the Coroner and the County Office of Emergency Services (OES). The Sheriff's

Department is responsible for all law enforcement patrol services throughout all areas of the unincorporated County.

The municipal police departments serve the cities of Colusa and Williams. Both cities use the county jail for all detentions. Since many law enforcement matters cross jurisdictional lines, the municipal police forces work closely with the Colusa County Sheriff's Department. The Sheriff's Department also provides 24-hour dispatching services for the municipal police departments. The County Sheriff's Department and the police forces of the cities of Colusa and Williams often work in concert for search and rescue efforts.

The U.S. Forest Service District Ranger provides law enforcement services within the Mendocino National Forest. The Fish and Game Warden patrols the National Wildlife Refuges. The California Highway Patrol patrols state roads and maintains an office at 100 E Street in Williams.

Schools

Colusa County is served by six school districts: Colusa Unified School District, Maxwell Unified School District, Pierce Joint Unified School District, Princeton Joint Unified School District, Stony Creek Joint Unified School District, and Williams Unified School District. The Colusa County Office of Education assists the Colusa, Maxwell, Pierce, and Williams School Districts by providing a variety of services, including fiscal management, curriculum coordination, special schools and programs, health services, media programs and materials, and coordination of state and federal projects (CCOE Public School Directory). The Stony Creek and Princeton School Districts include areas of Glenn County and, as such, are supported by the Glenn County Office of Education.

Colusa County does not have any colleges or universities. The nearest community colleges are Butte Community College in Oroville and Yuba Community College, which has campuses in Marysville, Woodland, and Clearlake.

Parks

There are parks facilities located throughout Colusa County. The City of Colusa Parks and Community Services Department is responsible for the operation of an aquatics complex, softball facility, and nine existing parks within the City of Colusa, as well as organizing various city-wide recreational activities that are offered on a year-around basis to city and county residents. The City of Colusa has an extensive network of local park facilities. The amenities at the City of Colusa parks include BBQ facilities, swimming pools, picnic tables, playgrounds, tot lots, trails, baseball fields, and basketball courts. The City of Colusa is also home to the Sacramento River SRA.

The City of Williams Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for the operation of all parks and recreation facilities within the City of Williams, as well as organizing various city-wide recreational activities that are offered on a year-around basis to city and county residents.

Arbuckle Parks and Recreation has been operating in the Arbuckle area solely from community donations and other government agencies. In the past several years Arbuckle Parks and Recreation in coordination with the Arbuckle Revitalization Committee has been creating some new community parks. These joint efforts were formed out of the CEDS (Community Economic Development Strategy) Plan for Arbuckle. In 1999 the Plan was accepted, and action items

outlined for the Parks and Recreation Committee. The beautification of Arbuckle and the creation of a downtown parks plan were the first action items undertaken by the Committee.

Since 1999 the two committees have created the “Wee Park,” a beautification project at the intersection of Old Hwy 99 and Hillgate Road. The “KIA Memorial Park” in downtown Arbuckle, a project that also recognized members of the Arbuckle and College City communities killed during a foreign war was also completed. Finally, the Committee is developing the “Lavanch Hursh Park”, this park is also a downtown park that will have picnic areas, a covered pergola for events in the park, and central location for community events. For the recreation portion of the plan the committee has created and implemented the “Swim Program,” at the Arbuckle Pool. Other programs offered include Adult Aerobics, a Tot Tumbling Class and Yoga, as well as a youth basketball league.

The Maxwell Recreation and Parks District was formed to manage the town pool and provide for the recreation needs of the community. Recreation facilities within the community of Maxwell include the local pool, the rodeo grounds and recreational opportunities on facilities owned by the local school district, which include primarily sports fields and playground facilities.

Other Public Facilities

The Colusa County Library has one main library and six branch libraries. The library owns 91,500 books, magazines, and movies. The Local History Collection contains over 2,500 items relating to the history of the region and genealogy of inhabitants. The main County Library is located in the City of Colusa.

Impact Summary

The proposed project does not approve, entitle, or otherwise propose or require the construction of new development or rehabilitation of existing development. The County has adequate housing sites to accommodate its regional housing needs allocation over the current housing cycle. Because of this fact, it was not necessary to include any policies that require future rezoning of land to accommodate the regional housing needs. While future residential development may affect these resources, any future development would be consistent with what has already been addressed in the General Plan for which an EIR is certified and consistent with intensities and densities allowed under the Zoning Code. The Housing Element Update does not change the potential location or intensity of development. As a result, the proposed project will not have any direct or indirect impacts on public services such as fire, police, schools, parks, and other services that are not already contemplated in the General Plan for which an EIR is certified. Implementation of the proposed project would have a less than significant impact on this environmental topic.

XV. RECREATION

	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?			X	
b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?			X	

RESPONSES TO CHECKLIST QUESTIONS

Responses a-b): Less than Significant. The proposed project does not entitle, approve, or require the construction of new development, nor does it require rezoning for land for future development. Development would be at levels and intensities contemplated by the Zoning Code and in the General Plan for which an EIR is certified. Implementation of the proposed project would have a less than significant impact on this environmental topic.

XVI. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC -- WOULD THE PROJECT:

	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
a) Cause an increase in traffic which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)?			X	
b) Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?			X	
c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?			X	
d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?			X	
e) Result in inadequate emergency access?			X	
f) Result in inadequate parking capacity?			X	
g) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?			X	

RESPONSES TO CHECKLIST QUESTIONS

Responses a-g): Less than Significant. Colusa County's preservation of agricultural land and concentration of growth within incorporated cities has created a unique transportation system compared to the rest of the Sacramento region. Most travel in the County is by automobile.

The roadway network within the unincorporated parts of the County is rural in character, mainly serving small communities and agriculture uses. Interstate 5 and State Routes 20 and 45 are the primary transportation corridors extending through the County and serve all of the County's major population centers, including Colusa, Williams, Arbuckle, and Maxwell. Other County arterials and a network of local public and private roads constitute the remainder of the roadway system.

The proposed project does not propose the construction of new development or rehabilitation of existing development. The County has adequate housing sites to accommodate its regional housing needs allocation over the current housing cycle. Because of this fact, it was not necessary to include any policies that require future rezoning of land to accommodate the regional housing needs. While future residential development may affect these resources, any

future development would be consistent with what has already been addressed in the General Plan for which an EIR is certified and consistent with intensities and densities allowed under the Zoning Code. The Housing Element Update does not change the potential location or intensity of development. The goals, policies, and implementation measures in the Housing Element Update would not result in any direct or indirect impacts on the transportation system. Implementation of the proposed project would have a less than significant impact on this environmental topic.

XVII. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS -- WOULD THE PROJECT:

	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?			X	
b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?			X	
c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?			X	
d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?			X	
e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the projects projected demand in addition to the providers existing commitments?			X	
f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the projects solid waste disposal needs?			X	
g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?			X	

*RESPONSES TO CHECKLIST QUESTIONS***Responses a), b), d), e):**

Refer to Section IX- Hydrology and Water Quality for a description of water supply and wastewater disposal. There are adequate supplies and facilities to meet the water and wastewater demands of the sites identified in the housing sites inventory in the Housing Element. The proposed project does not specifically entitle, approve, or propose the construction of development that would require water services or wastewater treatment and disposal services. The County has adequate housing sites to accommodate its regional housing needs allocation over the current housing cycle. Because of this fact, it was not necessary to include any policies that require future rezoning of land to accommodate the regional housing needs. While future residential development may affect these resources, any future development would be consistent with what has already been addressed in the General Plan for which an EIR is certified and consistent with intensities and densities allowed under the Zoning Code. The Housing Element Update does not change the potential location or intensity of

development. As a result, the proposed project will not have any direct or indirect impacts on water or wastewater services. Implementation of the proposed project would have a less than significant impact on this environmental topic. This is a less than significant impact.

Response c): Less than Significant. As described above under Section IX- Hydrology and Water Quality, new residential development would be required to construct on-site stormwater detention and drainage facilities, consistent with the County's development requirements. Implementation of the Housing Element would not result in the direct need to construct new or expanded stormwater drainage facilities. This is a less than significant impact.

Responses f-g): Less than Significant. The proposed project does not specifically entitle, approve, or require the construction of new development that would require solid waste disposal services. The proposed project does not propose the construction of new development or rehabilitation of existing development. The County has adequate housing sites to accommodate its regional housing needs allocation over the current housing cycle. Because of this fact, it was not necessary to include any policies that require future rezoning of land to accommodate the regional housing needs. While future residential development may affect these resources, any future development would be consistent with what has already been addressed in the General Plan for which an EIR is certified and consistent with intensities and densities allowed under the Zoning Code. The Housing Element Update does not change the potential location or intensity of development. As a result, the proposed project will not have any direct or indirect impacts on the solid waste services. Implementation of the proposed project would have a less than significant impact on this environmental topic.

XVIII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?			X	
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?			X	
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?			X	

RESPONSES TO CHECKLIST QUESTIONS

Responses a), b), c): Less than Significant. As described throughout the analysis above, the proposed project will not result in any changes to General Plan land use designations or zoning districts, and would not allow development in areas that would not already accommodate similar densities or intensities of development under the adopted General Plan and Zoning Ordinance. While the project encourages development of affordable housing and removal of constraints to the development of housing, development would continue to occur as envisioned under the General Plan. The project does not approve, entitle, or require development. An EIR has been certified for the General Plan that identifies potential significant effects associated with its implementation. The proposed project would not result in new adverse environmental impacts. The project would not threaten a significant biological resource, nor would it eliminate important examples California history or prehistory. The proposed project does not have impacts that are cumulatively considerable, nor would it have substantial adverse effects on human beings. Implementation of the proposed project would have a less than significant impact on these environmental topics.



Figure 1:
Regional Location: Colusa County

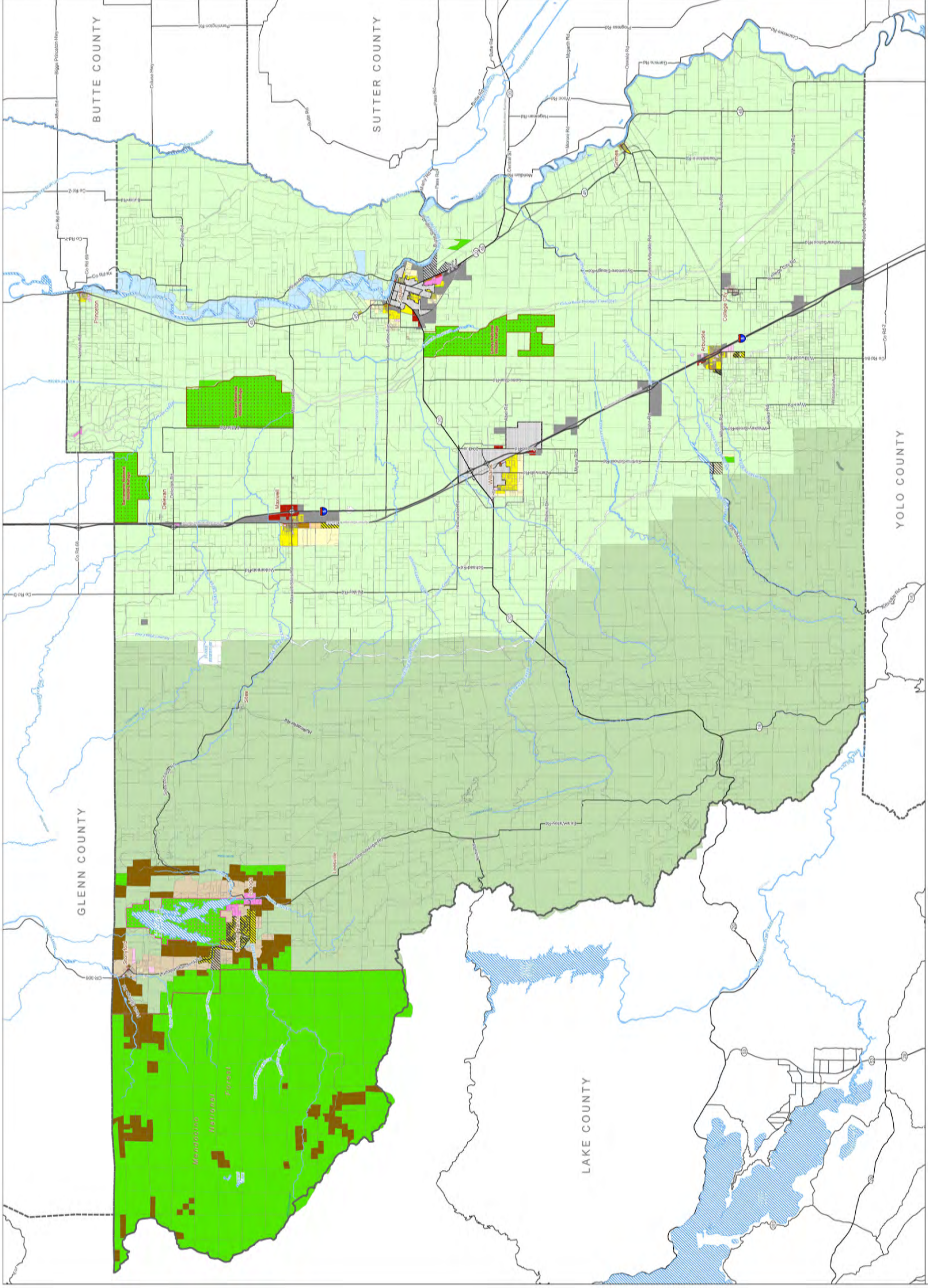


Figure 2
Project Location
Colusa County