



## COLUSA COUNTY GENERAL PLAN UPDATE STEERING COMMITTEE

### MEETING SUMMARY

#### Meeting #4 – December 1, 2010

Steering Committee members Bob Alvernaz (at-large), Jack Baber (Reclamation District #1004), Charles Bergson (City of Williams), Denise Erickson (Family Action Centers of Colusa County), Ben Felt (Colusa County Chamber of Commerce), Ashley Indrieri (Family Water Alliance), Nancy Loudon (Soroptomists International of Colusa County), Jim Reading (Colusa Lions Club), Jane Smart (at-large), Kay Spurgeon (Colusa County Office of Education), Bryan Stice (City of Colusa), Gary Teragawa (Colusa Regional Medical Center), and Mary Wells (at-large) were present.

#### **Public Comment**

An opportunity for public comment was provided; no public comments were provided.

#### **Circulation**

Jeff Clark of Fehr & Peers, the transportation consultant for the General Plan team, provided an overview of the County's circulation system. There was general consensus among the Steering Committee regarding issues related to circulation. The Committee identified the following priorities and concerns for the General Plan Update:

##### Roadways

- Roads are generally acceptable in terms of capacity and maintenance
- Need for continued maintenance funding
- Safety and maintenance should be addressed at:
  - Fouts Springs Road
  - Fruchtenicht Road
  - SR 20 at Westcott Road
  - Maxwell-Sites Road Bridge (one -lane)

##### Public Transit

- There was very strong support among the Steering Committee members for an improved public transit system. It was noted by multiple members that there are no public transit connections that will allow someone to travel to Yuba City, Sacramento, Chico, or the airport (Sacramento).
- Many specialists are located outside of Colusa County and it is difficult for many to receive the specialized care that they need.
- Colusa residents need the ability to access jobs and services in Yuba City, Woodland, Sacramento, and Chico via transit.

- Provide a public transit network that provides connections to Yuba/Sutter Transit (Meridian), Yolo Bus (Dunnigan/Woodland), and Glen County Transit (Willows). An initial connection to Meridian is the first priority.

#### Safety

- Access into and out of major communities and to the hospital needs to be maintained during flood events.
- Consider providing an all weather access roadway on Highway 20, particularly between Colusa and Williams.
- All weather access to all cities and communities in the County. Preferred facilities would be I-5, SR 20, and SR 45.

#### Sites Reservoir

- A map of the proposed Sites Reservoir that showed the relationship of the reservoir to the roadway system was distributed by Mary Wells. Maxwell Sites Road, the main route from Maxwell to Stonyford would be blocked by the reservoir. Various alternative routes are shown on the map.
- Support the most direct route as the primary route across Sites Reservoir to ensure that residences, businesses, and communities beyond Sites remain accessible and that travel to these areas is not discouraged due to lengthy or windy routes.
- Develop new roads where necessary to ensure that parcels divided by the reservoir do not become inaccessible.
- Access to recreational areas, such as for horses, off-road vehicles and properties should also be provided in the event the Sites Reservoir is constructed.

#### Bicycle/Pedestrian

- Both local and regional bicycle lanes and trails are needed throughout the County, both for local residents and to encourage recreation-related tourism.
- Developing a Bicycle/Pedestrian Master Plan is a priority
  - The Committee requested that the General Plan Update include a bicycle master plan map
  - Class I facilities preferred over Class II facilities.
  - Consider a Class 1 bike trail from Colusa to Meridian.
  - Consider a bike trail along the Sacramento River levee system
  - Provide trails and connections to primary destinations and attractions: Wildlife refuges, Sacramento River, communities, and schools.

- Possible routes – Sacramento River Path, I-5 Path, coastal mountain path, Colusa/Williams path
- Identify a bike course/circuit on the Westside that includes Williams, Leesville, Ladoga, and Maxwell to attract large-scale events and competitive bicycle races. This can be used to market the County as a destination for regional bicycle races and would allow the County to compete for a leg of the Amgen tour.
- Bicycle plan should be consistent with and provide opportunities for connectivity with regional routes identified in BMPs for Colusa, Williams, Yolo County, Sutter County, and Glen County
- Improving facilities within communities is the first priority and regional facilities is the next priority
- Bicycle/pedestrian routes should be created to provide opportunities for regional events and attractions:
  - Hiking trails
  - Competitive bicycle races – identify scenic bicycle route that could be marketed for bicycle races (e.g., leg of Amgen tour, professional races beginning and ending in the County, etc.)
  - High school cross country course facility – coordinate with schools to identify off-road trails that can be used to attract sectional and statewide meets.
  - Take advantage of Sites Reservoir to provide and other scenic areas to provide off-road mountain biking and/or multi-use trails
- The City of Colusa’s representative encouraged the County to coordinate with Colusa on development of their BMP.

#### Recreation

- Access to existing and new recreation areas
- Off highway vehicle trails
- Mountain bicycle trails
- Hiking trails
- Vista point/turnouts – future Sites Reservoir will have opportunities for pullouts with views of the reservoir and bridge

#### Scenic Highways

- Designate roadways that reflect the rural flavor of the County as local scenic routes

#### **Safety**

There was general consensus on issues related to safety. The Steering Committee identified the following priorities and concerns:

- The Steering Committee’s key concern regarding safety was flooding.
- The County needs to prioritize storm water management and also address improvements to the levee system.
- Local assessments should be considered to fund needed levee improvements.
  - Conduct public outreach to educate County residents and businesspeople regarding the importance of an assessment district and how they would benefit.
- Need a more specific emergency management plan to improve emergency response throughout the County. Review emergency management plan to ensure adequate emergency access routes are identified for major flood events.
- Develop a drainage master plan.
  - Address storm water and drainage improvements for each community that are needed to accommodate planned growth.
  - Coordinate with irrigation districts to encourage uniform standards for irrigation and storm water ditches.
    - Right now, each irrigation district has its own set of standards that are typically engineered for summer run-off levels but do not address winter storms.
    - Agricultural ditches should address irrigation run-off in the summer and the property’s fair share of run-off in the winter. Some types of farming (e.g., orchards) have more winter run-off than other types.
- The County needs both a drainage master plan and a flooding master plan – the drainage master plan is a higher priority and will be implementable on a project-by-project basis. The flooding master plan would address flooding on a larger/county-wide scale, such as levee improvements. The drainage master plan is the first priority.
- Need to provide on-going maintenance of bridges, culverts, and railroad trellis structures to provide adequate clearance for storm water flows.
- Ensure that property owners are adequately noticed of the restrictions on the land when purchasing land in a floodplain, floodway, or flood easement.