



COLUSA COUNTY GENERAL PLAN UPDATE STEERING COMMITTEE

MEETING SUMMARY

Meeting #7 – February 9, 2011

Steering Committee members Bob Alvernaz (at-large), Charles Bergson (City of Williams), Denise Erickson (Family Action Centers of Colusa County), Ben Felt (Colusa County Chamber of Commerce), Ed Hulbert (Colusa Industrial Properties), Nancy Loudon (Soroptomists International of Colusa County), Harry Petersen (at-large), Jim Reading (Colusa Lions Club), Kay Spurgeon (Colusa County Office of Education), Brian Stice (City of Colusa), Gary Teragawa (Colusa Regional Medical Center), Rachele Valverde (Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District), and Mary Wells (at-large) were present.

Meeting Topic

The Steering Committee Meeting focused on reviewing the draft Goals, Objectives, Policies and Actions for the General Plan topics of Economic Development, Agriculture, Open Space/Recreation, and Safety.

Public Comment

Opportunities for public comment were provided throughout the meeting.

George Lewis, a Colusa County resident, stated that the Site's Reservoir project is also referred to as the "North of the Delta Water Storage Project" in various documents from the State Department of Water Resources.

Lyn Heist, a resident and property owner from the City of Colusa Sphere of Influence area, presented photographs of flood/drainage damage done on his farm from adjoining urban development and requested that the County consider how these urban level impacts affect the agricultural industry. It was clarified that the County has no jurisdictional authority to address these impacts that may be caused from urban development within the City. However, the County can work with cities to coordinate flood and drainage control and mitigation in an effort to minimize these types of impacts in the future. It was noted that there are a number of policies and programs in the draft Safety Element that address the issue raised by Mr. Heist. The Committee was satisfied with this response and did not note any concerns regarding the Safety Element programs as drafted.

Review of Economic Development Goals, Objectives, Policies and Actions

Ben Ritchie of De Novo Planning Group, the prime consultant for the General Plan team, provided an overview regarding how goals are linked to objectives, policies, and actions in a hierarchy. Mr. Ritchie also explained how the General Plan would serve as a tool for elected officials and County staff in future decision making processes.

Public commenter George Lewis, from the Williams community, recommended policies and programs that address film industry programs as a strategy to promote economic development.

The Committee noted the importance of this and a variety of other economic generators that can improve the economic climate.

Under Policy ED 1-22, it was requested that Sites Reservoir be included as an area to focus public amenities, such as boat ramps, picnic facilities and public access. It was clarified that a specific section on Sites Reservoir will be provided in the Land Use Element. The Committee requested that where all documents address Sites Reservoir as a future facility/improvement, that it be referenced as a “proposed” facility.

Review of Agriculture Goals, Objectives, Policies and Actions

The Committee requested that Policy AG 2-8, regarding the County’s support of water development projects, incorporate language to include contractual and reliability assurances for water delivery to local agricultural uses. The Committee recommended that Policy AG 2-9, regarding the procurement of expanded water rights for agricultural uses, be revised to apply more broadly.

The Committee noted a concern with Action AG 2-G regarding considering the establishment of wastewater irrigation districts. The Committee requested that this be clarified to have the County support the use of recycled water for agricultural application rather than establish new water/wastewater districts that will add additional levels of regulation to water supply.

The Committee directed that Policy AG 2-11, regarding assisting farmers in resolving water rights, delivery and supply, include reference to the United States Bureau of Reclamation.

Review of Open Space/Recreation Goals, Objectives, Policies and Actions

The Committee noted a concern with Policy OSR 1-15, regarding light and glare impacts, to include addressing sensitive view sheds and recommended that the policy will be revised to broaden coverage to include view sheds and other sensitive view corridors in open space areas.

The Committee recommended that the Open Space and Recreation actions include providing signage to direct the public to wildflower viewing areas (in the western area of the County).

The Committee also noted a concern with Action OSR 2-D, regarding creating a new zoning district for resort commercial uses and the potential restriction on residential development. It was clarified that this proposed zoning district is intended to allow short term residential uses, such as hotels, RV parks and campgrounds, but is not intended to facilitate year-round residences such as mobile home parks. The Committee recommended that Action OSR-2-D be revised to clarify the intent and allowable uses within this proposed zoning district.

The Committee noted the need to address property rights for public viewing of wildflowers as well the impact that trespassing has on property owners, such as farmers. Discussion ensued regarding this matter, but no changes to the draft documents were made.

Review of Safety Goals, Objectives, Policies and Actions

The Committee had no proposed changes or revisions to this document.