



COLUSA COUNTY GENERAL PLAN UPDATE STEERING COMMITTEE

MEETING SUMMARY

Meeting #1 – September 15, 2010

Steering Committee members Denise Erickson (Family Action Centers of Colusa County), Ben Felt (Colusa County Chamber of Commerce), Ed Hulbert (Colusa Industrial Properties), Ashley Indrieri (Family Water Alliance), Nancy Loudon (Soroptomists International of Colusa County), Jim Reading (Colusa Lions Club), Kay Spurgeon (Colusa County Office of Education), Rachelle Valverde (Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District), Darrin Williams (Colusa County Resource Conservation District), Monica Aguayo (City of Williams), Bob Alvernaz (at-large), Bill Lovelace (at-large), Lester Miller (at-large), Harry Peterson (at-large), and Mary Wells (at-large) were present.

Steering Committee members introduced themselves and a general overview of the Steering Committee and General Plan Update process was provided. The two topics of discussion for the meeting were Open Space and Recreation.

Open Space

There was general consensus on all issues related to open space. The Steering Committee identified the following priorities and concerns for the General Plan Update:

- Ensure that ample space is provided for economic development, but not at the expense of open space. A good balance between open space and economic development land uses needs to be provided.
- Significantly improve access to open space. Features/amenities that require improved access include forest areas, Sacramento River, and other natural features.
- Properly manage open space and natural resources by providing buffers between urban and open space areas and defining urban development edges. Consider providing separate definitions for rural and urban areas.
- Strong support for Sites Reservoir in Colusa County as a significant asset. Need to identify specific policies and standards for the planning process as well as future land uses in the vicinity of Sites Reservoir. Identifying a Sites Reservoir Planning Area on the General Plan land use map would be appropriate. Policies and standards should address:
 - Participating in the Joint Powers Authority (JPA) that was formed to provide input on design and development.
 - Ensuring that standards and policies included in the General Plan Update are provided to the JPA to identify the County's goals and priorities for the area.
 - Keep Sites area land owners involved in the process.
 - Habitat and wildlife preservation to address habitat loss and displacement of wildlife.

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- Recreation opportunities, including camping, RV parks, etc.
 - Discourage development of permanent residential development around the reservoir.
 - Consider impacts to public safety and law enforcement services and identify mechanisms for additional funding for these uses.
 - DIVERGING OPINIONS: Some members of the Steering Committee supported Sites Reservoir as a more passive recreation area with limited commercial and economic development opportunities while other members supported identifying land uses and supporting development that would provide economic development and tourism opportunities.
- Identify open space areas for future drainage projects, including linear drainage types.
 - Scenic resources in the County that should be protected include Sutter Buttes, Snow Mountain, Goat Mountain, wildlife refuges, and spring wildflower areas.
 - Interest in identifying scenic “Rural Flavor” roads and areas, such as Bear Valley.

Open Space

The Steering Committee identified the following priorities and concerns for the General Plan Update:

- There is a shortage of parks and recreation facilities in the County.
- Adopt an ordinance to ensure that funding for adequate parks and recreation facilities are provided by new development and ensure that the minimum development size standard adequately captures new development’s fair share of demand for parks and recreation facilities.
- Provide better and more access to County recreation areas, including:
 - Improve access to County waterways, including Sacramento River, Stony Creek, and the East Park Reservoir.
 - Existing access points, such as the old ferry crossing in Princeton and boat ramp locations in Colusa and Grimes, should be improved.
 - Provide additional Sacramento River Access – consider improved access around Colusa.
- Create new zoning designation for resort commercial uses to promote tourism-focused commercial uses, such as a marina, and identify which General Plan designations are consistent with this zone.

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- **DIVERGING OPINIONS:** The Steering Committee expressed divided opinions on the Committee as to priorities for recreation facilities. Many felt that funding should be allocated towards local community parks through the existing parks and recreation districts. Some, however, felt a need to develop a more comprehensive vision on regional needs to fund other projects, such as regional parks for the county and trails and access to the Sacramento River. There was no clear consensus as to the appropriate means to develop the funding or how this funding should be allocated.
- **DIVERGING OPINIONS:** While there was consensus that the County needs to ensure that adequate parks and recreation facilities are provided, the Steering Committee was split between several approaches to administering parks and recreation facilities:
 - Creating special parks and recreation districts to address parks and recreation needs for each community and not putting the County in the business of providing parks and recreation facilities. It was pointed out that relying solely on local parks and recreation districts would not address regional park facilities or the impacts of local communities on County-wide parks and recreation facilities, including Sacramento River access.
 - Forming a County-wide parks and recreation department so that needs are addressed in areas without a special district and coordinating with local parks and recreation district.