



**COLUSA COUNTY GENERAL PLAN UPDATE
STEERING COMMITTEE**

AGENDA PACKET

Meeting #5 – December 15, 2010

TO: Steering Committee Members

FROM: Steve Hackney, Director of Planning and Building; Ben Ritchie and Beth Thompson, De Novo Planning Group

SUBJECT: Conservation and Noise

DATE: December 1, 2010

INTRODUCTION

Please note that this meeting packet includes an agenda for the upcoming meeting, identifies specific reading materials related to conservation and noise, and raises key issues to consider prior to the fifth Steering Committee meeting. Select pages from the 1989 General Plan, Existing Conditions Report, and Issues and Opportunities Report have been identified with this packet; please make sure to read these materials prior to the meeting. These materials are included in the large binder you received at a previous meeting.

This Steering Committee meeting will focus on the topics of Conservation and Noise. Both of these topics are State mandated elements of a General Plan and must be addressed.

The Conservation Element must address natural resources, including water, forests, soils, rivers, fisheries, wildlife, minerals and other natural resources. The requirements of the Conservation Element overlap with the Open Space, Land Use, Safety and Circulation Elements.

The purpose of the Noise Element is to limit the exposure of communities to excessive noise levels. The Noise Element must address noise from roadways, airports, farming operations, and major stationary sources. It must also identify maximum allowable noise exposure levels to noise-sensitive land uses such as hospitals, schools, churches, residences and sensitive habitat areas.

As part of the Visioning process, County residents and stakeholders identified the following priorities to address:

- Maintain rural character and lifestyle of the County and preserve open space;
- Focus new development around existing communities;
- Preserve agricultural lands, heritage and lifestyle; and
- Increase recreational opportunities.

The County's 1989 General Plan includes a stand-alone Conservation Element and noise is addressed within the Safety Element.

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REQUIRED READING

Prior to the meeting on December 15th, please review the following materials:

1. December 15, 2010 General Plan Steering Committee Agenda
2. General Plan Background Report: Chapters 5 and 6
3. Issues and Opportunities Report: Section 2.6
4. Colusa County 1989 General Plan

Goals and Objectives: pages 6-7

Conservation Element: All policies on pages 45 through 49

Safety Element: Noise policies on pages 34 and 35

WORK EXERCISE

As you are reading through each of the Issues and Opportunities topics related to Conservation and Noise, please review and think about the questions posed at the end of each topic. Please also consider, and be prepared to discuss, the following questions:

- a) Are there specific areas of the County that are exposed to unacceptably high levels of noise?
- b) What types of measures should the County implement to reduce noise exposure to sensitive receptors?
- c) Are there additional areas of the County that should be placed in a natural resources conservation easement?
- d) How can the County improve efforts to protect natural resources and improve surface water quality?

ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND MATERIALS

The Colusa County General Plan Update website is an excellent source of information for this project. Full copies of the Background Report, Issues and Opportunities Report, the 1989 General Plan, and the General Plan newsletters can be viewed and downloaded from the website located at: www.countyofcolusageneralplan.org.