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## Section 5.4 **Opportunities for Shared Facilities**



## 5.4 OPPORTUNITIES FOR SHARED FACILITIES

Opportunities for Shared Facilities determine if public service costs can be reduced as a result of identification and development of opportunities for sharing facilities and resources. As part of the MSR process, LAFCO is responsible for evaluating possible opportunities for sharing facilities and resources between jurisdictions and districts. The benefits of sharing building/up-keep costs for facilities are numerous, including:

1. pooling of funds to enjoy economies of scale,
2. reduced service duplications,
3. diversion of administrative functions of some facilities,
4. reduced costs, and
5. providing better overall services.

Maximizing the opportunities to share facilities allows for a level of service to citizens that may not otherwise be possible under normal funding constraints. Liabilities of such facility-sharing opportunities are not to be forgotten, however. When a municipality enters into a shared agreement it generally relinquishes a portion of its control of the respective facilities. Additionally, the facilities may not be entirely suited to what the municipality's needs are (e.g., facilities may be at an inconvenient locale, be under-sized or over-sized to suit needs, or have limited facility availability).

### 5.4.1 Existing Facilities

The City of Chico is somewhat isolated from other municipalities. The Town of Paradise, its nearest neighbor, lies approximately 14 miles to the east of Chico. The only other nearby city in Butte County is Oroville nearly 24 miles southeast. As a result, opportunities for shared facilities are focused primarily on Butte County and local districts.

#### **Determination 5.4-1**

The City of Chico General Plan includes specific policies that address shared facilities and cooperation between the City of Chico and Butte County. The City of Chico has made every effort to take advantage of opportunities for shared facilities and services with other agencies, primarily Butte County and local districts.

### ■ Parks and Recreation

The Chico Area Recreation and Park District (CARD), City of Chico, and Chico Unified School District (CUSD) cooperate to provide numerous recreational facilities.<sup>53</sup> CARD has established joint use agreements with CUSD to use utilize indoor school facilities for various CARD recreational programs,

<sup>53</sup> City of Chico *General Plan*, (1994, revised 1999), p. 5-4.

while the schools use CARD athletic fields. Equipment and labor is shared between the organizations as necessary to facilitate programming and maintenance of grounds.<sup>54</sup>

The City Parks Department coordinates with other organizations as well to provide park programs and public access to park facilities including, but not limited to, CARD, the Kiwanis (Observatory), Chico Equestrian Association, Bidwell Golf Club, Chico Creek Nature Center, and the Chico Rod and Gun Club. Except for formal and informal park and recreational agreements with CARD, Chico Parks generally does not enter into joint-use agreements with other organizations. The City's General Plan includes policies that describe the general nature of coordination with CARD.<sup>55</sup> The City and CARD continue to work together to ensure park facilities are provided in an efficient way, avoiding duplication of effort and facilities.

#### **Determination 5.4-2**

The Chico Area Recreation and Park District (CARD), City of Chico, and Chico Unified School District (CUSD) cooperate to provide numerous recreational facilities that meet the needs of the community.

### **■ Library**

Butte County maintains a Chico Branch Library. This library is the only public library in the City. While the physical facilities are adequate for current use, the staffing level, currency of the collection, and subject depth are not perceived to be adequate. If population growth continues at the present rate, County staff estimates that the library building would be inadequate in a decade; however, there is room for expansion at the present site. The General Plan recognizes the need to maintain library services at current levels and expand where possible.<sup>56</sup> The City of Chico allocates \$157,359 (in fiscal year 2006/2007) from City funds to Butte County for the sole purpose of increasing the Chico Branch of the Butte County Library's hours of operation from 35 hours per week to 60 hours per week.

#### **Determination 5.4-3**

The City of Chico allocates \$157,359 (in fiscal year 2006/2007) from City funds to Butte County for the sole purpose of increasing the Chico Branch of the Butte County Library's hours of operation from 35 hours per week to 60 hours per week.

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54 Butte County LAFCO, *Municipal Services Review Recreation and Park Services, Final Report* September 1, 2005, p. 3.1-16.

55 Butte County LAFCO, *Municipal Services Review Recreation and Park Services, Final Report* September 1, 2005, p. 3.2-15.

56 City of Chico *General Plan*, (1994, revised 1999), p. 5-24.

## ■ Emergency Services

The Butte County Sheriff's Department patrols all unincorporated areas of Butte County and maintains a Chico substation.<sup>57</sup> Like the Chico Emergency Plan, the Butte County Emergency Plan includes planned operational functions and overall responsibilities of each area of County with level of service in addressing emergency situations. These services, while administered at the County level, are available to the City of Chico and Planning Area residents.<sup>58</sup>

### **Determination 5.4-4**

The Butte County Sheriff's Department patrols all unincorporated areas of Butte County and maintains a Chico substation. These services, while administered at the County level, are available to the City of Chico and Planning Area residents and provide an additional level of law enforcement.

## ■ Fire

The Butte County Fire Department operates two stations in the Planning Area and two in adjacent areas. The two locations in the Planning Area duplicate City services and coverage. Chico Merged Redevelopment Fund funding has been provided (see Section 4.6) to assist with relocating these stations to the periphery of the urban area, with more appropriate response patterns and coverage.

### **Determination 5.4-5**

The Butte County Fire Department operates two stations in the Planning Area and two in adjacent areas. The two locations in the Planning Area duplicate City services and coverage. Chico Merged Redevelopment Fund funding has been provided to assist with relocating these stations to the periphery of the urban area, with more appropriate response patterns and coverage.

## ■ Roadways and Regional Transportation

Inter-city bus transportation is provided by Butte Regional Transit (B-Line), Greyhound, and Amtrak. B-Line is a transit service that runs fixed routes locally in Chico, Oroville, and Paradise and between communities throughout Butte County. B-Line is managed by the Butte County Association of Governments (BCAG) and consists of the formerly independent transit systems operated by the City of Chico, County of Butte, and other cities in the county. This has resulted in administration consolidation, efficient use of equipment and facilities, and coordination of routes. Greyhound offers bus transportation daily to destinations outside of Chico as does Amtrak. Future demand for inter-city

57 City of Chico *General Plan Master Environmental Assessment*, January 1994, Revised 1999, p. 19-5.

58 City of Chico *General Plan Master Environmental Assessment*, January 1994, Revised 1999, p. 11-4.

services can be expected to increase. Chico should monitor the demand for inter-city service and work to increase it where appropriate and feasible.<sup>59</sup>

In order to be funded, many transportation projects must be part of local and regional programs. Two of these include the Butte County Congestion Management Program (CMP) and the Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP). Once a project is in the RTIP, it is available for consideration in the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). The state-mandated CMP is implemented by the Butte County Association of Governments (BCAG), which is responsible for overseeing local agency compliance with state law. Cities within the County are responsible for conformance with the adopted transit and service level standards on the principal arterial system, as defined by the CMP. Cities within the County are also responsible for the adoption and implementation of a trip-reduction and travel-demand ordinance and for developing a program to analyze the impacts of land use decisions. Where deficiencies in the system exist, deficiency plans must be adopted and methods of correcting the deficiencies identified. If deficiencies go unmitigated, the City could lose a portion of its gas tax revenues.

Projects on the CMP are eligible for the RTIP and STIP. Additional funding sources are available through the federal Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) of 1991, which revamped the nation's surface transportation programs (e.g., highway, transit, pedestrian, and bicycle facilities) to give state and local agencies increased funding, greater flexibility, and greater responsibility to select the mix of projects best suited to meet local needs. The ISTEA legislation allows the City of Chico greater flexibility in determining federal funding for various surface transportation modes. This flexibility will help provide a more balanced transportation system and could impact the current funding structure if funds are shifted from street projects to transit projects or vice versa. No additional funds are available initially to the Planning Area, but this could change in the future.<sup>60</sup>

**Determination 5.4-6**

B-Line is managed by the Butte County Association of Governments (BCAG) and consists of the formerly independent transit systems operated by the City of Chico, County of Butte, and other cities in the county. This has resulted in administration consolidation, efficient use of equipment and facilities, and coordination of routes.

**Determination 5.4-7**

The Butte County Association of Governments in cooperation with Caltrans, Butte County, and the City have identified a list of prioritized projects to address current and future operational deficiencies on the Highway 99 corridor through the City.

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59 City of Chico *General Plan*, (1994, revised 1999), p. 4-36.

60 City of Chico *General Plan*, (1994, revised 1999), p. 4-4.

**Determination 5.4-8**

The City's Nexus Study, for the most part, assumes funding for projects involving improvements to or realignments of Highway 32 and Highway 99 will result as a cooperative effort between the City, Butte County, and the State. The cost of traffic signal projects at city street/state highway intersections will generally be shared between the city and the state in accordance with current state policy.

**5.4.2 Plans and Regulatory Requirements****■ City of Chico General Plan Policies**

The City of Chico's General Plan has five main purposes. One of those purposes is "...to provide a basis for continuing consultation with Butte County on policies and standards that are within the County's jurisdiction."<sup>61</sup>

The following are specific policies address shared facilities and cooperation between the City of Chico and Butte County:

PP-G-4: Continue cooperative efforts with Chico Area Recreation and Park District and Chico Unified School District to provide recreational facilities.

PP-I-51: Develop a city library system or work with Butte County to expand its existing library facilities to maintain library services at existing levels. Work with LAFCO and Butte County to explore the feasibility of establishing communitywide funding for library facilities and services.

CD-G-3: Preserve agricultural lands and open space outside the City's growth boundaries through cooperation with Butte County, including support of programs and policies, such as transitional uses and buffers along the City's urban boundaries, the "Greenline," and large-parcel zoning.

S-I-8: Maintain mutual aid agreements with other agencies in Butte County, with the long-term objective of having a single emergency response agency for the Chico Urban Area.

S-I-9: Work with the California Department of Forestry and Butte County Fire Department, on the feasibility of a watershed protection contract for the Bidwell Park area and other areas that are prone to wildland fires, to enhance city capabilities with tools such as air tankers and helicopters.

T-I-4: Implement the bikeway plan shown in Figure 4-1 by...working with Butte County and other agencies to implement a regional bikeway system.

T-I-25: Monitor the frequency, routing and coordination of local transit service for consistency with the requirements of the Butte County CMP.

T-I-60: In consultation with Butte County and Caltrans, designate and provide signed truck routes, ensure that adequate pavement depth, lane widths, bridge capacities, loading areas, and turn radii are maintained on the designated truck routes, and prohibit commercial trucks from non-truck routes except for deliveries.

T-I-72: In consultation with Butte County Transit, Greyhound, and Amtrak, monitor demand for inter-city bus transit service and increase service as demand warrants.

61 City of Chico *General Plan*, (1994, revised 1999), p. 1-5.

### 5.4.3 Summary of Written Determinations

- 5.4-1 *The City of Chico General Plan includes specific policies that address shared facilities and cooperation between the City of Chico and Butte County. The City of Chico has made every effort to take advantage of opportunities for shared facilities and services with other agencies, primarily Butte County and local districts.*
- 5.4-2 *The Chico Area Recreation and Park District (CARD), City of Chico, and Chico Unified School District (CUSD) cooperate to provide numerous recreational facilities that meet the needs of the community.*
- 5.4-3 *The City of Chico provides an annual subsidy to the Butte County Chico Branch Library to allow enhanced hours and services.*
- 5.4-4 *The Butte County Sheriff's Department patrols all unincorporated areas of Butte County and maintains a Chico substation. These services, while administered at the County level, are available to the City of Chico and Planning Area residents and provide an additional level of law enforcement.*
- 5.4-5 *The Butte County Fire Department operates two stations in the Planning Area and two in adjacent areas. The two locations in the Planning Area duplicate City services and coverage. Chico Merged Redevelopment Fund funding has been provided to assist with relocating these stations to the periphery of the urban area, with more appropriate response patterns and coverage.*
- 5.4-6 *B-Line is managed by the Butte County Association of Governments (BCAG) and consists of the formerly independent transit systems operated by the City of Chico, County of Butte, and other cities in the county. This has resulted in administration consolidation, efficient use of equipment and facilities, and coordination of routes.*
- 5.4-7 *The Butte County Association of Governments in cooperation with Caltrans, Butte County, and the City have identified a list of prioritized projects to address current and future operational deficiencies on the Highway 99 corridor through the City.*
- 5.4-8 *The City's Nexus Study, for the most part, assumes funding for projects involving improvements to or realignments of Highway 32 and Highway 99 will result as a cooperative effort between the City, Butte County, and the State. The cost of traffic signal projects at city street/state highway intersections will generally be shared between the city and the state in accordance with current state policy.*