

**ADJOURNED REGULAR CHICO CITY COUNCIL MEETING — February 8, 2011**  
**Chico Municipal Center, Council Chambers, 421 Main Street**

- 1.1. **CLOSED SESSION** - 6:00 p.m.
- 1.2. **ADJOURNED REGULAR JOINT CITY COUNCIL/PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING** -6:30 p.m.
- 1.3. Call to Order - 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber, 421 Main Street
- 1.4. Flag Salute
- 1.5. Roll Call
- 1.6. Closed Session Announcement

2. **CONSENT AGENDA** - *The City Council will act on the Consent Agenda prior to its joint meeting with the Planning Commission.*

2.1. **ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION REQUESTING SUPPORT FROM STATE LEGISLATORS FOR AN ALCOHOL BAN ON A SPECIFIED PORTION OF THE SACRAMENTO RIVER ON SUMMER HOLIDAY PERIODS**

**Adopt** - a resolution in support of State legislation to restrict alcoholic beverages on the Sacramento River during certain limited summer holiday periods. ***The Chief of Police recommends adoption of the resolution.***

*RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHICO REQUESTING SUPPORT FROM STATE LEGISLATORS FOR AN ALCOHOL BAN ON A SPECIFIED PORTION OF THE SACRAMENTO RIVER ON SUMMER HOLIDAY PERIODS, INCLUDING MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND, THE 4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY AND LABOR DAY WEEKEND*

3. **REGULAR AGENDA**

3.1. **CHICO 2030 GENERAL PLAN UPDATE – FINAL DRAFT REVIEW**

At this meeting the City Council and Planning Commission will discuss any remaining comments or questions regarding the Final Draft Chico 2030 General Plan. The Final Draft General Plan is a refinement of the Draft General Plan released in March 2010. The changes reflected in the Final Draft resulted from Council and Commission direction over the course of seven joint workshops held during 2010. Direction from Council and Commission at this meeting will be reflected in the Final Chico 2030 General Plan. ***(Report - Brendan Vieg, Principal Planner)***

**Recommendation** – The Planning Services Director recommends that the City Council and Planning Commission accept staff's report and provide direction to the project team on the Final Draft 2030 General Plan.

4. **BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**

Members of the public may address the Council at this time on any matter not already listed on the agenda, with comments being limited to three minutes. The Council cannot take any action at this meeting on requests made under this section of the agenda.

5. **ADJOURNMENT**

Adjourn to February 15, 2011 at 6:00 p.m., in Conference Room 2 if a closed session is scheduled, followed by an adjourned regular meeting in the Council Chamber at 6:30 p.m.

**ADJOURNED REGULAR CHICO CITY COUNCIL MEETING — February 8, 2011**

**CLOSED SESSION**

Chico Municipal Center, Conference Room #2, 421 Main Street

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

1.1. Roll Call

1.2. Staff Present

2.1. **CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL — EXISTING LITIGATION:** The City Attorney will review the following: *Danford A. Jay and Sandra R. Jay, individually and as trustees of the Jay Family Trust v. City of Chico, et al.*, Butte County Superior Court Case 145202, pursuant to subdivision (a) of Government Code section 54956.9.



3. **ADJOURNMENT**

Adjourn to a joint meeting with the Planning Commission in the Council Chamber.



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TO: City Council

FROM: Mike Maloney, Chief of Police (897-4950)

RE: Adoption of a Resolution in support of State legislation to restrict alcoholic beverages on the Sacramento River during certain limited summer holiday periods

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**REPORT IN BRIEF:**

A group of community and public safety leaders from the region have been coordinating in the development of a comprehensive plan to significantly reduce the scale of the annual regional Labor Day event, which has a portion of its focus on the Sacramento River in Butte and Glenn Counties. A key component of the strategy is the passage of a State law which will complement county ordinances in Butte and Glenn Counties and restrict the possession and use of alcoholic beverages on the River during certain limited summer holiday periods, including the Labor Day weekend. Assembly Member Dan Logue has committed to drafting and carrying a State bill, but has requested a demonstration of commitment and support from affected government officials in the region.

Recommendation:

The Chief of Police recommends that the City Council adopt the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHICO REQUESTING SUPPORT FROM STATE LEGISLATORS FOR AN ALCOHOL BAN ON A SPECIFIED PORTION OF THE SACRAMENTO RIVER ON SUMMER HOLIDAY PERIODS, INCLUDING MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND, THE 4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY AND LABOR DAY WEEKEND**

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no fiscal impact related to the proposed resolution specifically; however, to the degree that passage of the proposed legislation by Butte and Glenn Counties and the State will reduce the magnitude of the regional Labor Day event and the corresponding requirements for a response by public safety, there is great potential for significant General Fund savings to be realized in the future.

**BACKGROUND:**

For more than a decade, during the summer holiday periods associated with Memorial Day, the 4th of July and the Labor Day weekend there has been a significant influx of young people who converge on the Sacramento River, and float from the Irvine Finch Park in Hamilton City to Scotty's Boat Landing via "Beer Can Beach." The use and abuse of alcoholic beverages by these young people, the associated crime and violence, the littering of the alcoholic beverage containers and the discarding of flotation devices are negative accompanying aspects of these occasions. On Labor Day, there have been as many as 15-20+ thousand people who take part in the float down the River.

In association with these holiday periods, especially Labor Day weekend, there is a noted increase of young people who come from outside the area to "party" in Chico. Together, these periods of partying in the Chico area and the associated River floats, have annually required a significant response from the regional public safety agencies in an attempt to manage the almost overwhelming activity. The combined annual cost to the taxpayers for these regional party experiences is in the tens, if not hundreds, of thousand of dollars. Each year, representatives of the responding public safety agencies reflect on these experiences and consistently note that they have constituted public safety and environmental emergencies by virtue of the responses required and the resulting damage to the River.

In December 2010, the Chief of Police coordinated a gathering of elected officials, community leaders and leaders in public safety from the Butte and Glenn Counties area to discuss concerns about these regional events. The clear agreement of the group was that the periods of partying in Chico combined with the floating events on the Sacramento River, especially Labor Day weekend, constitute significant concerns. Further, that as leaders in public safety, community leaders, stewards of the environment and the taxpayer dollar, taxpayers and citizens, we have a collective obligation to mitigate these events. The group committed to working together to develop a comprehensive strategy, based on education and enforcement, to significantly reduce the magnitude of these occurrences.

In analyzing the geographic configuration of the River, it has been noted that there are a dozen or more entities that have varying degrees of overlapping jurisdiction and responsibility. It has also been noted that the jurisdictional entity for the water itself is the State of California. As it is the perspective of the public safety agencies that routinely respond to the River-oriented activity that the common denominator in the negative criminal and anti-social behavior related to these events is alcohol, an examination of the ability to regulate use and possession of alcoholic beverages has been conducted. It has been determined that there is not currently any mechanism or immediate ability to regulate use or possession of alcohol on the river.

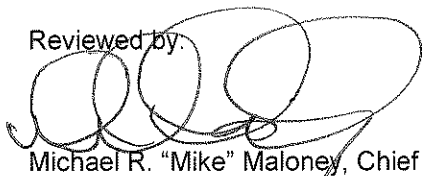
In conjunction with this effort, the Chief of Police and several other regional leaders in public safety became aware of an existing model that allows for the regulation of alcohol on certain bodies of water during specified, limited periods. This regulation is based on State law, in the Business and Professions Code, but tied to and dependent upon local area ordinances. Assembly Member Dan Logue was contacted by the Chief, the Butte County District Attorney, the Butte County Sheriff and the Area Commander for the Chico CHP, and requested to consider authorizing and carrying a bill to make such a State law applicable to our region. He indicated he is willing to do so, but has since indicated a desire to be provided with some sort of formal indication of the support for such legislation.

It is in the furtherance of demonstrating and communicating that support that the Chief of Police has requested the Council adopt the attached resolution. It is additionally recommended that the resolution support the enactment of ordinances in Butte and Glenn Counties that would prohibit the possession/consumption of alcoholic beverages along the banks of the Sacramento River, within the affected area during certain summer holiday periods and in conjunction with the State legislation.

**PUBLIC CONTACT:**

The proposed legislation, as components of a comprehensive strategy, have been discussed in the previously referenced regional meeting with representatives from: Chico State, Butte College, Chico State Associated Students, Butte College Associated Students, California State Parks, the Chico Community Youth Alcohol Advisory Committee, Hamilton City Fire Department, California Highway Patrol - Chico and Willows, CSU Chico Police Department, Butte County Board of Supervisors, Glenn County Board of Supervisors, Butte County Sheriff's Department, Butte County District Attorney's Office, Glenn County District Attorney's Office, Glenn County Sheriff's Department, Enloe Hospital, First Responder Ambulance Company, Butte County Behavioral Health, CSU Campus Alcohol and Drug Education Center, Chico City Council, California Department of Fish and Game, and the Sacramento River Preservation Trust.

Reviewed by:



Michael R. "Mike" Maloney, Chief of Police

Approved by:



David Burkland, City Manager

**DISTRIBUTION**

City Clerk (18)

**ATTACHMENT**

Labor Day Resolution

1 RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

2  
3 **RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHICO REQUESTING SUPPORT**  
4 **FROM STATE LEGISLATORS FOR AN ALCOHOL BAN ON A SPECIFIED PORTION OF**  
5 **THE SACRAMENTO RIVER ON SUMMER HOLIDAY PERIODS, INCLUDING MEMORIAL**  
6 **DAY WEEKEND, THE 4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY AND LABOR DAY WEEKEND**

7 **WHEREAS**, in past years, during the summer holiday periods, including Memorial Day  
8 weekend, the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and the Labor Day weekend, tens of thousands of people have flocked to the  
9 portion of the Sacramento River located between the Highway 32 Bridge (north of the Irvine Finch River  
10 Access) and the outlet of Channel Slough (approximately 5.6 miles south of the Irvine Finch River  
11 Access) to float on inner tubes and other makeshift rafts; and

12 **WHEREAS**, the vast majority of the people involved in this activity bring alcoholic beverages  
13 that they consume as they float down the river; and

14 **WHEREAS**, participants in the float congregate by the thousands on a small island, which has  
15 become known as "Beer Can Beach"; and

16 **WHEREAS**, it is not uncommon for fights and other unruly behavior involving intoxicated  
17 individuals to occur on the Beach, necessitating a law enforcement response; and

18 **WHEREAS**, medical aids and emergency rescues of individuals whose judgment is impaired due  
19 to intoxication are common; and

20 **WHEREAS**, each year this unsanctioned event requires a massive response by law enforcement,  
21 medical, and fire and rescue personnel in order to keep the peace and prevent death or serious injury; and

22 **WHEREAS**, due in large part to the excessive consumption of alcohol during this event, it has  
23 become a threat to public safety and a serious draw on limited public safety resources; and

24 **WHEREAS**, State legislation prohibiting the possession and/or consumption of alcoholic  
25 beverages on the affected area of the Sacramento River, by individuals floating down the River during the  
26 summer holiday periods, including Memorial Day weekend, the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and Labor Day weekend  
27 would serve to mitigate the threat to public safety that currently exists; and

28 **WHEREAS**, enacting a County ordinance that would prohibit the possession and/or consumption  
of alcoholic beverages along the banks of the Sacramento River, within the affected area, during the

1 summer holiday periods, including Memorial Day weekend, the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and Labor Day weekend  
2 would also serve to mitigate the threat to public safety; and

3 **WHEREAS**, similar legislation was enacted on the American River in Sacramento County  
4 (Business & Professions Code §25608.10) and on the Truckee River in Placer County (Business &  
5 Professions Code §25608.5) to assist with comparable events:

6 **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Chico that:**

7 The Chico City Council requests its State Legislators to author and support legislation that would prohibit  
8 the possession and/or consumption of alcoholic beverages on the portion of the Sacramento River  
9 between the Highway 32 Bridge (north of the Irvine Finch River Access) and the outlet of Channel  
10 Slough (approximately 5.6 miles south of the Irvine Finch River Access) during the summer holiday  
11 periods, including Memorial Day weekend, the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and Labor Day weekend.

12 The Chico City Council supports the enactment of ordinances by Butte and Glenn Counties that  
13 would prohibit possession and/or consumption of alcoholic beverages along the banks of the Sacramento  
14 River, within the affected area, during the summer holiday periods, including Memorial Day weekend, the  
15 4<sup>th</sup> of July and Labor Day weekend in conjunction with the State Legislation being adopted.

16 The foregoing resolution was adopted by the City Council of the City of Chico at its meeting held  
17 on February 8, 2011, by the following vote:

18 AYES:

19 NOES:

20 ABSENT:

21 DISQUALIFIED:

22 ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

23  
24  
25 \_\_\_\_\_  
Deborah R. Presson, City Clerk

23  
24  
25 \_\_\_\_\_  
Lori J. Barker, City Attorney



## Council/Commission Agenda Report Meeting Date: February 8, 2011

TO: City Council and Planning Commission

FROM: Brendan Vieg, Principal Planner (879-6806)  
Meredith Williams, Associate Planner (879-6813)

RE: CHICO 2030 GENERAL PLAN UPDATE (FINAL DRAFT REVIEW)

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### REPORT IN BRIEF

The purpose of this joint meeting is to discuss any remaining Council and Commission comments or questions regarding the Final Draft of the Chico 2030 General Plan. Previous Council and Commission direction on the individual elements of the Draft Plan led to the changes reflected in the Final Draft. The project team is also seeking Council and Commission input on minor changes to the draft Land Use Diagram discussed later in this report. Direction received at this meeting will be reflected in the final 2030 General Plan.

Over the past three years, Council and Commission have provided significant input into the development of the Chico 2030 General Plan. Your input has been carefully documented and incorporated. While there will be a desire by some to rehash and debate issues that have already been vetted multiple times, it is the project team's hope that the Council and Commission will respect the process that has already taken place, and focus their attention on whether the Final Draft Plan accurately captures previous direction.

#### Recommendation:

The Planning Services Director recommends that the City Council and Planning Commission accept staff's report and provide direction to the project team on the Final Draft 2030 General Plan.

### FISCAL IMPACT

The City's General Plan consultant budget of \$1,527,924 is being paid according to the terms of the Professional Services Agreement. To date, the consultant has been paid \$1,480,739. Staff is reviewing invoices as they are received to ensure that all required tasks will be completed within the remaining budget of \$47,185.

### BACKGROUND

Over the course of seven special meetings last year, the community, Council and Commission reviewed and commented on each element of the Draft General Plan. The Final Draft General Plan, released in early January, reflects the changes directed by Council during those meetings. Additional edits have been included by staff to improve the document's clarity. All changes are highlighted in the Final Draft with an underline for new text and a ~~strikethrough~~ for deleted text. **In preparation for the meeting, please carefully review the Final Draft General Plan to ensure that Council's previous direction has been accurately captured. Any final comments or questions you may have should be shared during the February 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.**

In addition, this report highlights three types of changes to the Land Use Diagram for Council and Commission consideration.

## Land Use Diagram

### Resource Constraint Overlay

The Butte County Association of Governments (BCAG) is facilitating development of the Butte County Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). As part of that process, BCAG solicited comments on the City's draft Land Use Diagram from state and federal resource agencies involved in the HCP process. As a result, the resource agencies have requested that three additional areas be included in the Resource Constraint Overlay (RCO) on the Land Use Diagram to highlight that the areas are considered critical habitat for Butte County meadowfoam. The additional areas are shown on **Attachment A at stamped page number 01**. The project team supports the resource agencies' request via BCAG to extend the RCO to these areas, particularly because the overlay is intended to highlight areas with significant environmental constraints, but does not itself constrain development of a site. Full development potential for these sites was analyzed as part of the General Plan environmental review as this request was made subsequent to distribution of the Draft EIR.

### Neighborhood Commercial Designations

The draft 2030 General Plan specifies two land use designations for neighborhood-scale commercial uses, Mixed Use Neighborhood Commercial (MUNC) and Neighborhood Commercial (NC). The main distinction between the designations is the size of the properties, with NC sites being smaller than two acres and MUNC sites being two acres or greater. In addition, the MUNC designation currently requires horizontal or vertical mixed use (per Action LU-2.3.4 in the Land Use Element).

Due to the many similarities in these two designations, the need for separate NC and MUNC designations has been recently questioned by staff. To support the ongoing goal of keeping the General Plan "general", it has been determined that the two designations can be combined into one Neighborhood Commercial (NC) designation, and that any requirement for mixed use on the larger MUNC properties can be better achieved through the comprehensive update of the City's zoning ordinance.

This Land Use Diagram refinement requires three changes to the draft General Plan, including: 1) all sites on the draft Land Use Diagram currently designated MUNC will be given the NC designation, 2) Action LU-2.3.4 will be modified to no longer list MUNC, but be replaced with a new bullet item reading, "Neighborhood Commercial on sites of two acres or larger", and 3) Table LU-2 will be modified to remove the MUNC description and include the following revised version of the NC description.

**Neighborhood Commercial (NC)** - This designation accommodates a mix of business, office, and residential uses that support the needs of residents living in the surrounding neighborhoods. Allowable uses include small grocery or drug stores, retail shops, and small-scale financial, business, personal services, and restaurants. Horizontal or vertical mixed use is required on larger sites with this designation, as specified in the Municipal Code.

- Density Range: minimum 6.0 (no minimum for vertical mixed-use); maximum 22.0
- Suggested FAR: minimum 0.20; maximum 1.5

### Other General Plan Designation Changes

Since Council selected the Preferred Land Use Alternative, the project team has identified a number of properties on the draft Land Use Diagram where designation changes are appropriate. The reasons for designation changes varies, but the majority of the changes are on properties where the 1994 General Plan designation is inconsistent with either the property's current zoning or existing land use. Aligning a site's General Plan designation with a site's zoning and/or existing use is desirable both for property owners and the City. Therefore, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) was used to identify inconsistent properties, and their designations were changed on the draft Land Use Diagram to support either the existing (and still appropriate) land use and/or the current zoning. Below are examples that characterize these changes:

#### *Match Existing Land Use and/or Zoning:*

1. A City-owned property used for drainage between Pine and Cypress Streets was changed from Low Density Residential (LDR) to Secondary Open Space (SOS) to match the OS1 zoning and existing land use.
2. Two properties with existing apartments on the 1100 block of E. 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue were changed from Medium Density Residential (MDR) to Medium High Density Residential (MHDR) to match the existing land use and the site's R3 zoning.
3. The Residence Inn block on Park Avenue was changed from Commercial Services (CS) to Regional Commercial (RC) to reflect the existing use.
4. Costco and Crossroads Mall on MLK Jr. Pkwy were changed from Commercial Mixed Use (CMU) to Regional Commercial (RC) to reflect the existing uses.
5. The skateboard park on Humboldt Road was changed from Low Density Residential (LDR) to Secondary Open Space (SOS) to reflect the site's use.
6. A small subdivision north of Downtown was changed from Very Low Density Residential (VLDR) to Low Density Residential (LDR) to match the site's existing density and its location in the central city.

#### *Property Owner Inquiries:*

1. 2801 Godman Avenue - This 12,000 square foot parcel is currently outside of City limits, zoned R3 by Butte County, and has a 1994 City General Plan designation of Medium Density Residential (MDR). Butte County permitted the construction of an office building which is nonconforming under the County's R3 zoning. The property's City General Plan designation was changed to Neighborhood Commercial (NC) to accommodate the existing use and to mirror the NC site across Godman Avenue from the property.
2. 1407 W. 5th Street - This quarter-acre parcel was changed from Manufacturing and Warehouse (M&W) to Neighborhood Commercial (NC) to provide a neighborhood commercial opportunity at a site that is within walking distance to high density student housing in the area.
3. Stewart Avenue - This street is located off of Nord Avenue and is currently in the County. The Land Use Diagram has been changed from Low Density Residential (LDR) to Medium High Density Residential (MHDR) on nine of the street's properties to acknowledge their existing use as apartments, and one property has been changed from Commercial Mixed Use (CMU) to Medium High Density Residential (MHDR) to match the existing County designation and zoning, adjacent uses, and a land owner request.

## PUBLIC CONTACT

A large display ad notice for the meeting was published in the Chico E-R. An e-mail highlighting the meeting topic, place and time was sent to a distribution of over 9,000 recipients. Finally, the staff report and all background supporting materials, including the Final Draft General Plan, are available on the City's dedicated General Plan website ([www.chicogeneralplan.com](http://www.chicogeneralplan.com)). Public correspondence received related to this meeting is available at **Attachment B on stamped page number 02.**

Reviewed by:

  
Mark Wolfe, Planning Services Director

Approved by:

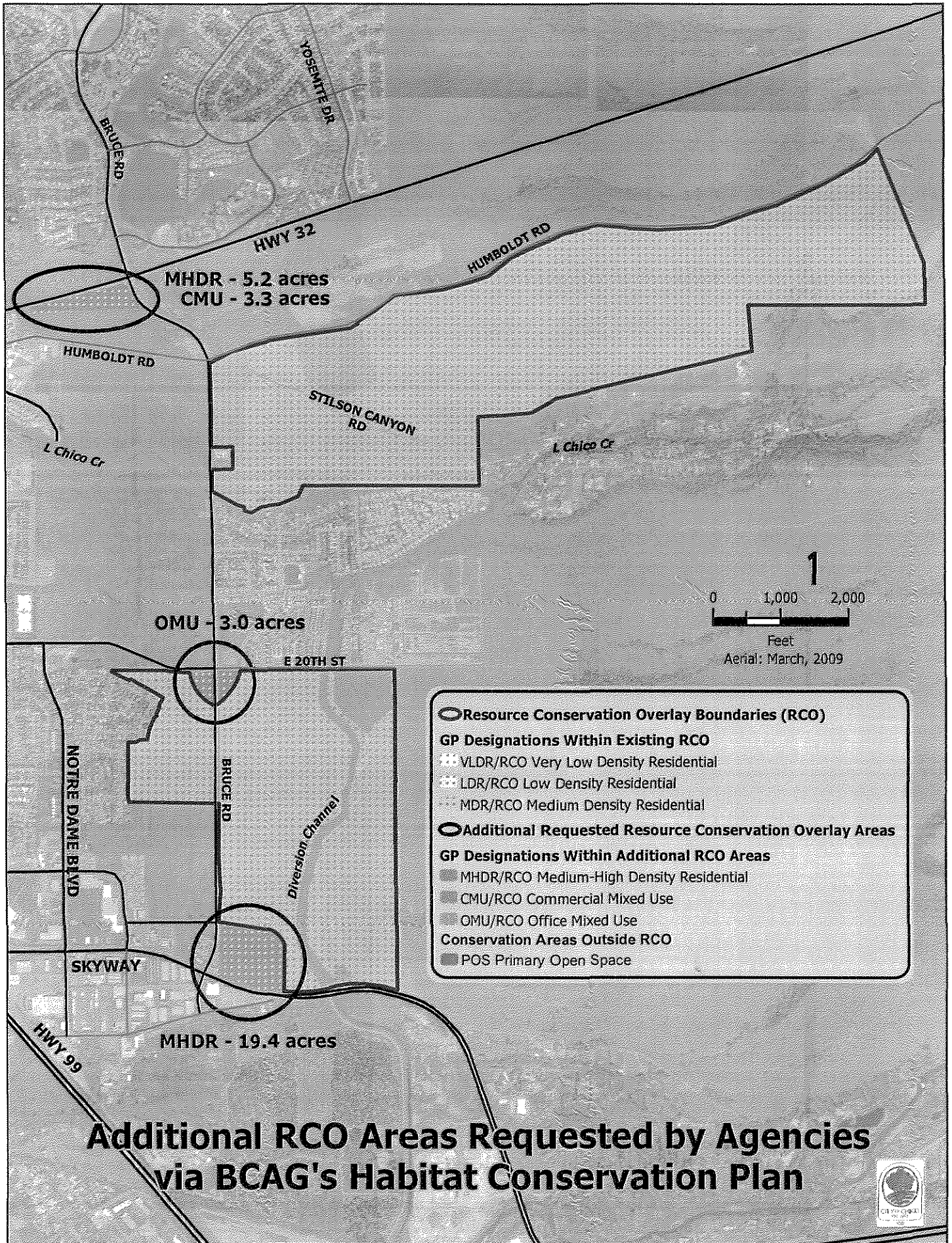
  
David Burkland, City Manager

### DISTRIBUTION:

City Clerk (18)  
Planning Commission (7)  
General Plan Advisory Committee (10)  
Pacific Municipal Consultants (2)  
PP-Vieg  
AP-Williams  
Supervisor Wahl  
Supervisor Kirk (Hand Delivery)  
Supervisor Lambert (Inter-Office)

### ATTACHMENTS:

- A. Figure - Additional Resource Constraint Overlay Areas
- B. Public Comment Letters



FURTHER SUSTAINABILITY MEASURES NEEDED

for the

CHICO GENERAL PLAN

Jon Luvaas, January 2011

1. Groundwater Monitoring Needed:

Insert in the water conservation actions of the Open Space and Environment Element a new Action following OS-3.3.1 (page 10-23):

To monitor and evaluate City progress in maintaining a sustainable groundwater supply, annually consult with and obtain reports from Cal Water regarding long-term groundwater levels and trends.

2. Resource Conservation (SUS-Goal 5):

Because no implementing steps have been developed yet, it has been proposed that the goal to conserve our seriously depleted resources (other than oil) be dropped from the General Plan. However, the long-term goal to conserve resources is crucial for sustainability and the City can support this goal by adding policies and actions such as:

- a. Use the Climate Action Plan as a guide for City and community action to conserve resources.
- b. Utilize the City's sustainability web site, in collaboration with non-profit and public entities, businesses, utilities, and community projects, to promote public awareness of resource conservation opportunities and programs.
- c. Include examples of resource conservation in the Design Guidelines Manual.
- d. Consider opportunities for resource conservation during review of City projects.

3. Underutilized Downtown Land:

- a. Amend Action DT-2.5.2 (Public-Private Development Partnerships): Investigate the use of City-owned properties and underutilized private parking lots in public-private partnerships as an incentive to new development downtown.

**Richard Roth Comments on the Final Draft General Plan for the 02/08/11 Joint  
Council/Planning Commission Meeting**

**Sustainability Element**

Goal SUS-7 in the Sustainability Element reads as follows:

“Goal SUS-7: Support local food systems in Chico.”

1) Make the following addition to Policy SUS-7.1 under Goal SUS-7:

Policy SUS-7.1 (Community Food System) – Support a community food system that bolsters the economy, supports local agriculture, connects Chico residents to local food sources **and facilitates healthy lifestyles.**

2) Add a new action under Policy SUS-7.1:

**Action SUS-7.1.4 (Support Healthy Lifestyle) - Utilize incentives identified under Action LU-2.3.1 in the Land Use Element to assist businesses and business models that promote sustainable and healthy food access and distribution.**

As a reminder, Action LU-2.3.1 reads as follows “To support desired development patterns and economic development opportunities, continue the use of, and expand as appropriate, City incentives, including but not limited to:

- Priority project processing
- Deferral of development impact fees
- Flexibility in development standards such as parking, setbacks, etc.
- Density and Intensity bonuses
- Support for infrastructure upgrades

**Economic Development Element**

Goal ED-1 in the Economic Development Element reads as follows:

“Goal ED-1: Maintain and implement an Economic Development Strategy to enhance Chico’s long-term prosperity.”

3) Make the following addition to Policy ED-1.5 under Goal ED-1:

Policy ED-1.5 (Quality of Life In Support of Economic Development) – Encourage projects and programs that help increase the quality of life for local businesses, **non-profits** and their employees.

4) Add a new action under Policy ED-1.5:

**Action ED-1.5.3 (Social Service Support) – Encourage and assist local non-profits and social service organizations in implementing programs that stimulate the local economy and broaden the long term benefits of federal, state, and regional healthy lifestyle assistance programs.**

**Brendan Vieg - letter for packet for general plan meeting**

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**From:** chico air <chicohealthyairalliance@gmail.com>  
**To:** <bvieg@ci.chico.ca.us>  
**Date:** 01/31/2011 3:35 PM  
**Subject:** letter for packet for general plan meeting

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Hi Brendan

please could you add this letter to the packet for the Feb 8th meeting

thanks for mailing the cd with the response to EIR comments

Luke

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We the undersigned applaud the vision in the General Plan for Chico's air in 2030 to be 'clean and measurably healthy' (10-1). However, with Chico in 2011 already failing state and federal air quality standards, we believe it is necessary to strengthen certain policies in order to deliver the promise of clean air.

In its nearly 50 page analysis of the air related aspects of the Chico General Plan, it is determined in the EIR draft that implementation of the proposed General Plan Update 'would result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of ozone and coarse and fine particulate matter.' (4.6-41)

It goes on to say that even with hoped for improvements in vehicle emission technology, 'construction and development activity under the proposed General Plan Update would result in emissions in excess of BCAQMD thresholds for criteria air pollutants and precursors for which BCAQMD is in nonattainment.' (4.6-41)

We are in agreement with the EIR's assessment that the General Plan policies and actions in the current draft would assist in reducing the contribution to cumulative air quality impacts. We are also in agreement that these policies are not yet strong enough to deliver clean and measurably healthy air.

We therefore propose the following changes:

#### Open Space and Environment Element

1. Amend Action OS-4.1.1 (Air Quality Impact Fees) - Develop an air quality impact fee as one method to fully offset and mitigate air quality impacts through offsite improvements.
2. Add a new Action (Annual Reductions) adapted from current General Plan OS-I-1: In consultation with the Butte County Air Quality Management District, develop City policies and programs to achieve five percent annual emissions reductions for nonattainment pollutants from local sources, including ozone and particulate matter.
3. Amend Action OS-4.1.3 (Wood Burning) to retain a portion of current General Plan OS-I-12: Implement measures to reduce air pollution from wood burning, including consideration of a

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requirement that older wood burning stoves be replaced or retrofitted with devices meeting federal EPA standards at the time a residence is sold.

Circulation Element

Add Action CIRC-5.3.3 (Transit Fee) - Consider adoption of a transit impact fee, based on unfunded transit needs in locations proposed for development.

We appreciate your consideration

Sincerely

Luke Anderson, Chico Healthy Air Alliance

David Welch, Registered Nurse, Cardiac Rehabilitation

Dr. Mark Stemen, Department of Geography and Planning, CSU, Chico

Elizabeth Devereaux, Chico Sustainability Group Chair

Julian Zener, MD

Grace Marvin, PhD, Conservation Chair Sierra Club, Yahi Group

Tom Alden

Robin Huffman, Advocacy Director Butte Environmental Council

Karen Laslo, Concerned Chico resident

Mark Herrera, Commissioner, Bidwell Park and Playground

Ken Fleming, Director of Behavioral Health Services, Retired

Desiree Hatton, Assistant Advocacy Director of Butte Environmental Council

Susan Mason

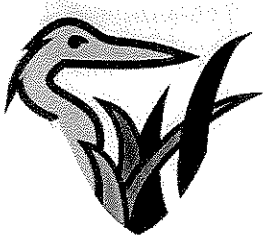
Debbie Villasenor

Stephanie Elliott

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# Butte Environmental Council



116 W. Second Street, Suite 3  
Chico, CA 95928  
(530) 891-6424  
(530) 891-6426 FAX  
[www.becnet.org](http://www.becnet.org)

## Activities and Events

Environmental Advocacy  
Environmental Education  
Groundwater Protection  
Endangered Species Faire  
Bidwell Park Cleanups  
Chico Area Creek Cleanups  
Recycling Referrals  
Wetlands Preservation

## Staff

**Nikki Schlaishunt**

*Administrative Director*

**Robin Huffman**

*Advocacy Director*

**Mary Muchowski**

*Education & Outreach Coordinator*

**Maggi Barry**

*Office Manager / E&O Assistant*

## Board of Directors

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February 1, 2011

To: Chico City Council, Planning Commission, Principal Planner Brendan Vieg

Subject: Comments for Feb. 8, 2011, Joint City Council/Planning Commission Meeting Agenda to Review the Final Draft General Plan

It is great to see the City committed to sustainability and we look forward to collaborating on the implementation of the plan and seeing these sustainability related goals realized.

There are a number of great policies and actions within the plan to help reduce food miles traveled and increase access to local, whole food through community gardens. And while these are very important we must remember why they were put in the plan and what more can be done. According to a recent study by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, by 2020 3 out of 4 Americans will be overweight. The CDC recognizes that diabetes and obesity are reaching epidemic proportions through out the US. The epidemic is also due to decrease in physical activity.

We at the Butte Environmental Council, fully support Richard Roth's suggestions for the General Plan. His knowledge on barriers to access of healthy food is incredible, as well as the work he does to change it.

The following draft suggestions came from discussions with Richard Roth and we subsequently worked on language with Principle Planner Brendan Vieg who may have edited and incorporated some of the text indented below.

Sustainability Element

Goal SUS-7 in the Sustainability Element reads as follows:

“Goal SUS-7: Support local food systems in Chico.”

1) Make the following addition to Policy SUS-7.1 under Goal SUS-7:

Policy SUS-7.1 (Community Food System) – Support a community food system that bolsters the economy, supports local agriculture, connects Chico residents to local food sources and facilitates healthy lifestyles.

2) Add a new action under Policy SUS-7.1:

Action SUS-7.1.4 (Support Healthy Lifestyle) - Utilize incentives identified under Action LU-2.3.1 in the Land Use Element to assist

businesses and business models that promote sustainable and healthy food access and distribution.

As a reminder, Action LU-2.3.1 reads as follows “To support desired development patterns and economic development opportunities, continue the use of, and expand as appropriate, City incentives, including but not limited to:

Priority project processing

Deferral of development impact fees

Flexibility in development standards such as parking, setbacks, etc.

Density and Intensity bonuses

Support for infrastructure upgrades

Economic Development Element

Goal ED-1 in the Economic Development Element reads as follows:

“Goal ED-1: Maintain and implement an Economic Development Strategy to enhance Chico’s long-term prosperity.”

3) Make the following addition to Policy ED-1.5 under Goal ED-1:

Policy ED-1.5 (Quality of Life In Support of Economic Development) – Encourage projects and programs that help increase the quality of life for local businesses, non-profits and their employees.

4) Add a new action under Policy ED-1.5:

Action ED-1.5.3 (Social Service Support) – Encourage, and assist if requested, local non-profits and social service organizations in implementing programs that stimulate the local economy and broaden the long term benefits of federal, state, and regional healthy lifestyle assistance programs.

The following suggestions have not been discussed with Brendan Vieg and may not have been considered to this point in the general plan update process:

Page 2-3, Social Equity paragraph: while “public health” is included toward the end of the paragraph, add “healthy lifestyles, medical care facilities” to the first sentence so the first sentence reads, “For the purposes of this General Plan, social equity means fair access to housing, transportation, jobs, education, healthy lifestyles, medical care facilities, and recreation...”.

Page 2-9, Goal SUS-2. Add a phrase at the end so that the goal reads: Increase effective citizen participation in local government to increase the sustainability of Chico's population within the City Planning Area and local region.

Add Action SUS-2.1.3 (Sustainability Task Force) – Expand the scope of the Sustainability Task Force. The Sustainability Task Force shall be made to oversee the three aspects of sustainability: economic, environmental, and social equity. This action will call for the integration of current committees, such as the Economic Development Committee and the Diversity Action Plan Committee. The Task Force should consider broadening their initial task of implementing Chico's Climate Action Plan for the protection of the environment.

Page 7-3. BEC applauds and supports the addition of the first paragraph under Sustainable Economic Development that begins, "A healthy economy is one component of long-term sustainability..."

Separate Action ED-1.2.7 to emphasize consideration of enhanced local rail. Local railways may once again become the most viable and feasible type of transportation as energy prices increase and replacement energy sources may not support the demand.

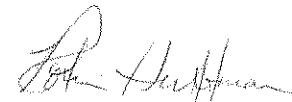
Add an action item to explore the consideration of enhanced local rail to serve Chico.

BEC supports the addition of Action ED-1.3.3 (Economic Resilience)

Add Action ED-1.3.5 (Education) – Develop a program to educate the community about the need to transition quickly to a re-localized, production oriented economy that remains connected to the economy at large but not dependent on its financial stability.

Thank you for your consideration of the above suggestions.

Appreciatively,



Robin Huffman  
Advocacy Director



Desiree Hatton  
Assistant Advocacy Director