

Butte County
CALIFORNIA

General Plan 2040

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GENERAL PLAN 2040

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1 INTRODUCTION



Sunset in Butte County. Photo courtesy of Tovey Giezentanner, General Plan 2030 Citizens Advisory Committee member.

The Butte County General Plan 2040 provides direction on how the County will fulfill its community vision and manage its future growth. This chapter provides an overview of the purpose and contents of the General Plan 2040, as well as its process and vision statement.

A. Purpose

The General Plan represents the basic community values, ideals and aspirations with respect to land use, development and conservation policy that will govern Butte County through 2040. This General Plan addresses all aspects of development, including land use; circulation and transportation; open space, natural resources and conservation; public facilities and services; safety; and noise.

The preparation of a General Plan is required by California Government Code Section 65302. California Government Code Section 65300 requires the General Plan to be comprehensive and internally consistent, and to provide long-term guidance for the community. Although the General Plan is required to address the issues specified by State law, it may be organized in a way that best suits Butte County.

This General Plan supersedes the previous General Plan with its various elements that were adopted in 2010, as well as the previous HOUSING ELEMENT that was adopted in 2014. The General Plan will be implemented through updates to other planning documents to bring them into consistency with the vision outlined in the Butte County General Plan 2040.

B. General Plan 2040 Organization and Contents

This General Plan includes this INTRODUCTION and 11 separate elements that establish goals, policies and actions for each given topic. The elements cover the topics required by California State Government Code Section 65302. In addition, this General Plan includes chapters that list the General Plan 2040 Guiding Principles, describe Butte County, provide area plan policies, provide a GLOSSARY, and list preparers of the General Plan, as well as appendices that list each of the General Plan 2040 goals, provide economic development strategies, and provide noise contour maps.

1. Elements

A brief explanation of each General Plan 2040 element is provided below.

- **Land Use Element.** The State-required LAND USE ELEMENT designates all lands within unincorporated Butte County for specific uses such as housing, retail, industrial and agricultural uses. The LAND USE ELEMENT also provides development regulations for each land use designation and overall land use policies for the County.
- **HOUSING ELEMENT.** The State-required HOUSING ELEMENT demonstrates how the County will meet its existing and projected housing needs, including its share of the regional housing need. This Element addresses specific sites with development capacity to meet the projected housing need, reviews the results of the previous HOUSING ELEMENT, describes the public participation process for the HOUSING ELEMENT Update, assesses housing needs and inventories resources and constraints.
- **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ELEMENT.** This Element addresses Butte County's local economy, job creation and the County's fiscal health.
- **AGRICULTURE ELEMENT.** This Element includes goals, policies and actions intended to conserve agricultural land, promote agricultural uses and maintain the natural resources necessary to foster agricultural growth.
- **WATER RESOURCES ELEMENT.** This Element includes goals, policies and actions intended to protect and conserve Butte County's water sources, stormwater management, water service providers, water storage facilities, the supply and demand of water in Butte County and the County's management efforts for water resources.
- **CIRCULATION ELEMENT.** State law requires that a CIRCULATION ELEMENT specify the general location and extent of existing and proposed major streets and other transportation facilities. The Element is correlated with the LAND USE ELEMENT to provide adequate pedestrian, bicycle, motor vehicle, transit, air transportation and emergency access to serve both new and existing land uses. The Element also addresses transit-oriented development; cooperation with other agencies, such as the California Department of Transportation; and the environmental effects of transportation, such as air quality and greenhouse gas emissions. The circulation of infrastructure related to energy, water, wastewater and stormwater are discussed in the Water Resources, Conservation and Open Space, and Public Facilities and Services Elements.
- **CONSERVATION AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT.** This Element combines two elements required under State law: the Open Space Element and the Conservation Element. It addresses the six types of open space identified by State law: open space for the conservation of natural resources, open space used for the managed production of resources, open space for public health and safety, open space in support of the mission of military installations, and open space for the protection of Native American sacred sites. This Element also addresses greenhouse gases, energy, air quality, biological resources, timber resources, mineral and soil resources, cultural resources and scenic resources.
- **HEALTH AND SAFETY ELEMENT.** This Element combines two elements required under State law: the Noise Element and the Safety Element. It provides information about risks in Butte County due to natural and human-made hazards, and contains goals, policies and actions designed to

protect the community and its property from hazards and noise. The HEALTH AND SAFETY ELEMENT addresses noise problems, quantifies current and projected noise levels from a variety of sources, and establishes noise compatibility guidelines for different land uses. It also addresses risks associated with flooding and dam or levee inundation; seismic and other geologic hazards; fire hazards; and hazardous materials. This Element also addresses emergency response, disaster preparedness and community health.

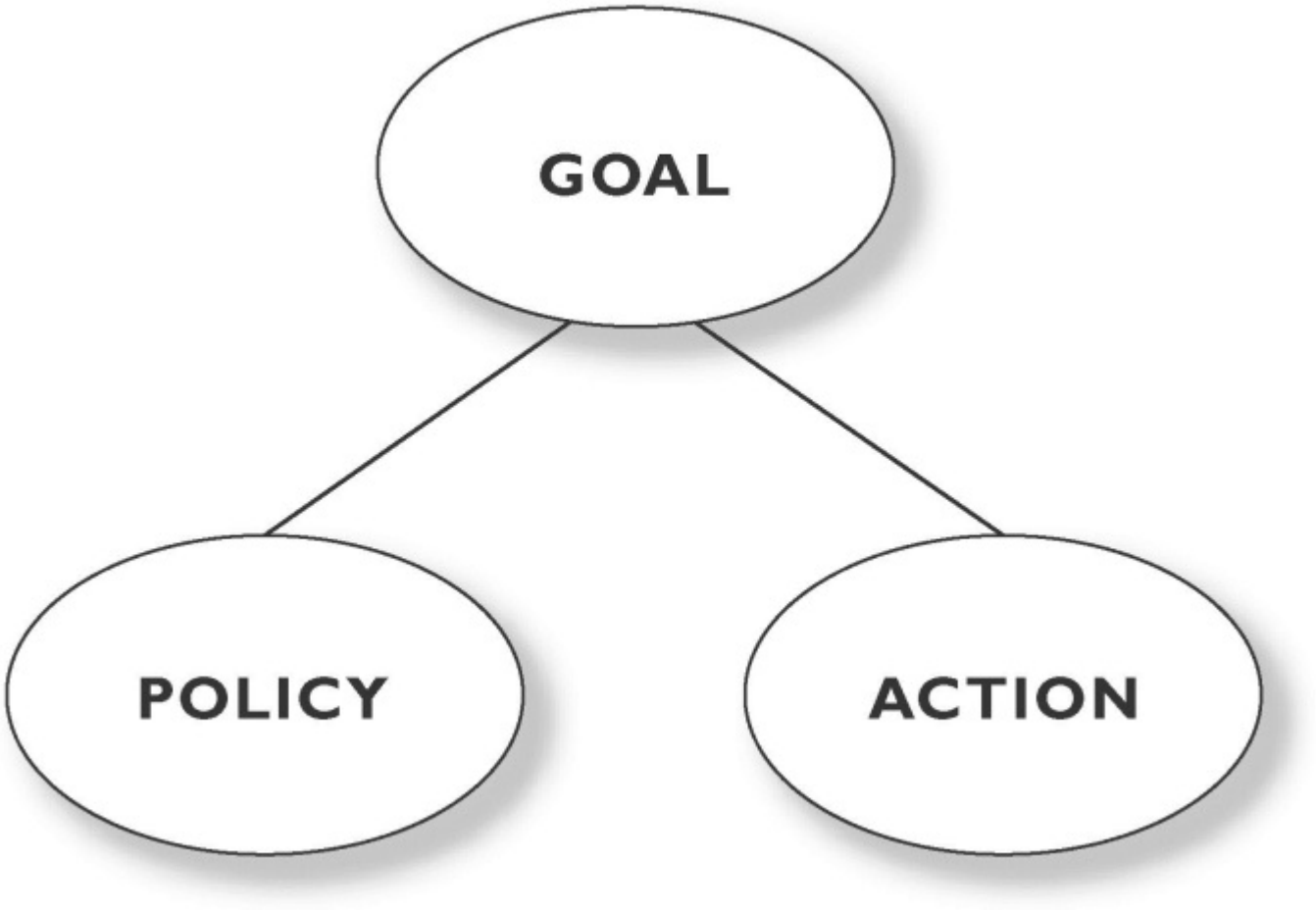
- **Public Facilities and Services Element.** This Element assesses the current state of public services and facilities within the county, including general government services, fire protection and emergency medical services, sheriff services, public education, libraries, parks and recreation, solid waste and waste diversion, and wastewater.
- **AREA PLANS ELEMENT.** The AREA PLANS ELEMENT provides goals and policies from the Durham, Dayton, Nelson Plan. This Element ensures that the land use plan previously developed for this geographic area is consistently applied in the General Plan, and that future area plans may be readily incorporated into the General Plan.
- **ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ELEMENT.** The ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ELEMENT analyzes existing barriers to overall health, livelihood, and sustainability faced by low- income residents, communities of color, indigenous peoples and tribal nations, and immigrant communities, collectively referred to as “Communities of Opportunity” (COOs) in the General Plan. The Element introduces policies to address the needs of COOs in all areas required by State law—access to physical activity, transportation and transit, healthy food, safe and sanitary homes, and public facilities and services; air quality and pollution exposure; and community engagement.

2. Goals, Policies and Actions

Each element of this General Plan contains background information and a series of goals, policies and actions. Figure IN-1 illustrates that policies and actions are at the same level of importance, and are all intended to implement goals. In most cases, goals have both implementing policies and actions. However, it is also possible for a goal to be implemented exclusively through policies or actions. The following provides a description of goals, policies and actions and explains the relationship between them:

- A **goal** is a description of the general desired result that the County seeks to create through the implementation of its General Plan.
- A **policy** is a specific statement that guides decision-making as the County works to achieve a goal. Such policies, once adopted, represent statements of County regulation. A policy is on-going and requires no further implementation. The General Plan’s policies set out the standards that will be used by County staff, the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors in their review of land development projects and in decision-making about County actions.
- An **action** is an implementation measure, procedure, or technique intended to help achieve a specified goal. The County must take additional steps to implement each action in the General Plan. An action is something that can and will be completed.

Figure IN-1 General Plan Components



These goals, policies and actions provide guidance to the County on how to direct change and manage its resources over the next 20 years. APPENDIX A provides a list of all of the goals for each Element and its subsections.

C. Relationship to the Action Plan

The General Plan will be accompanied by a stand-alone Action Plan that is intended to guide the County as it begins implementation of the General Plan. The Action Plan will identify those actions that should be completed within each of the first five years after the General Plan is adopted, as well as actions that will be completed in later years. The Action Plan will include a schedule, estimated budget and responsible party or agency for each project that will be completed within the first five years after the General Plan is adopted.

D. General Plan Process

1. General Plan 2040 Process

The Butte County General Plan 2040 process was a targeted update, primarily focused on addressing the County's ability to rebuild following the Camp and North Complex Fires and create a more resilient future. To achieve these ends, the General Plan Update included comprehensive revisions to the County's Housing and HEALTH AND SAFETY ELEMENTs and introduced a new ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ELEMENT. The Land Use, Circulation, and WATER RESOURCES ELEMENTs underwent significant revisions, primarily to address new requirements under State law. And the Economic Development, Agriculture, Conservation and Open Space, Public Facilities and Services, and AREA PLANS ELEMENTs underwent lesser revisions focused on maintaining internal consistency within the entire General Plan in light of updates to other elements and updating background information based upon the Settings and Trends Report.

General Plan 2040 included a comprehensive community engagement plan that included the following community workshops and meetings:

- One hybrid in-person and online community workshop designed to introduce community members to the project and gather initial input to inform updated policies and actions in the General Plan.
- A two-part policy options meeting series designed to get community member input on proposed policies to address safety, resilience, housing, and environmental justice issues in the county.
- An environmental justice stakeholder meeting focused on identifying the breadth and geographic scope of environmental justice issues facing unincorporated communities in Butte County, confirming where impacted communities are located and how to engage with them.
- Follow up stakeholder interviews concerning environmental justice.
- An online community workshop and consultations and meetings with stakeholders to obtain community and stakeholder input on the HOUSING ELEMENT Update.
- A two-part series of open house sessions to present the Draft General Plan for feedback by community members.
- Water Commission meeting to discuss new policy topics in the WATER RESOURCES ELEMENT and follow-up work with Water Commission subcommittee members.
- A Planning Commission Study Session to discuss and hear feedback on the HOUSING ELEMENT Update and overall General Plan Update.
- Pop-up booths at the Home and Garden Show and County Fair to provide information on the General Plan update process and opportunities to engage.

2. General Plan 2030 Process

Given the targeted nature of the updates to General Plan 2040, much of the content from the previous General Plan 2030 was carried forward. Therefore, this section also describes the process to develop General Plan 2030.

The Butte County General Plan 2030 was developed with extensive community input. Widely-publicized public workshops were held to inform community members about the update and to invite feedback on the process. Additionally, the Board of Supervisors formed a Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) consisting of 34 Butte County residents to provide representative input to the Butte County General Plan 2030 process. A total of 24 CAC meetings were held during the planning process, all of which were open to the public.

The goals, policies and actions contained within this General Plan 2030 were primarily developed through the public process described in this section. In addition, a number of other policies were included in order to respond to specific environmental concerns and avoid common environmental impacts associated with new development under the General Plan.



CAC members and members of the public collaborate to determine potential study areas during Meeting Series #2/3. Photo courtesy of the Butte County Department of Development Services.

The County also created a General Plan 2030 website at www.buttegeneralplan.net to enhance and inform the public process. The website provides all maps and documents, meeting summaries, meeting announcements and information, and video from public workshops, CAC meetings, and Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors Study Sessions. The website also includes an online discussion forum in which members of the public can post and discuss comments about General Plan 2030, which were provided to participants in the Meeting Series process.

a. Meeting Series

The planning process included seven "Meeting Series" that were held to discuss various aspects of the General Plan, including issues identification, land use alternatives development, land use alternatives evaluation and selection, goals and policies development, the HOUSING ELEMENT, the General Plan, and the Draft Zoning Ordinance. Each Meeting Series was made up of the following meetings:

- A Public Workshop where community members met to learn about the progress of General Plan 2030 and discuss and provide input on issues.
- One or more CAC meetings at which CAC members deliberated on the issues at hand and reviewed input from the Public Workshop.
- One or more Planning Commission Study Sessions at which Commissioners reviewed the outcomes of the Public Workshop and CAC meetings and made recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.
- One or more Board of Supervisors Study Sessions at which the Supervisors reviewed the outcomes of the previous meetings and provided final direction to County staff and consultants.

b. Area-Wide Workshops and Community Meetings

At the outset of the General Plan process, an additional 19 community-focused public meetings and workshops were held at various locations across Butte County. Seven of the public meetings were Area-Wide Workshops held in the following parts of the county:

- Central Buttes Area
- Durham/Dayton/Nelson Area
- Gridley-Biggs Area
- Lake Oroville Area
- Paradise Area
- Chico Area
- Oroville Area

Similarly, twelve Community Meetings took place in the unincorporated communities of Butte County, including:

- Cherokee
- Cohasset
- Concow/Yankee Hill/Jarbo Gap
- Feather Falls/Forbestown/Clipper Mills
- Forest Ranch
- Nord
- Palermo/Honcut
- Berry Creek/Brush Creek
- Richvale
- Stirling City
- Bangor/Rackerby
- Butte Meadows/Jonesville

At both the Area-Wide Workshops and Community Meetings, participants discussed each area's unique assets, issues and existing conditions. The input received was incorporated into the General Plan 2030 process in the form of land use and policy alternatives.

c. Coordination with Municipalities

The City/County Summit was initiated by the Butte County General Plan 2030 process in order to facilitate communication between the County and the five incorporated municipalities. Over 50 public officials, including City Council members, Planning Commissioners and County Supervisors, attended this important event. This summit included an exercise during which elected officials, planning commissioners, the public and County and municipal staff identified issues that required municipal and County collaboration and planning. Consensus was built around several key areas, including a countywide economic development strategy and fiscal issues between the municipalities and the County, such as consideration of tax- sharing agreements.

The City/County Summit also began the individual "one-on-one" meeting process between municipal and County leaders and their staffs, wherein issues related to each jurisdiction's General Plans were discussed and shared. In addition, a joint meeting between the Biggs City Council, Gridley City Council and Board of Supervisors was held in order to address planning concerns in that area.

d. Economic Summit

At the Butte County General Plan 2030 Economic Summit, 185 people engaged panelists and facilitators with questions and input on ideas for an economic strategy for Butte County. This meeting was an open invitation to the public at large and was attended by a wide variety of people, including representatives from various public and private entities in Butte County. The audience broke out into over a dozen small group discussions to review the major conclusions of the day and to generate ideas for land use designations and policies for incorporation into the General Plan.

e. Migratory Deer Range Study

The Butte County Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission held a joint meeting focusing on the Migratory Deer Range Technical Study and GIS modeling effort that was conducted as part of General Plan 2030, and which informed the biological resources evaluation in the Land Use Alternatives Evaluation Report. The joint workshop was held to inform both the Board of Supervisors and the Planning Commission about the Study, and included presentations by the consultant and the California Department of Fish and Game. The Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission discussed how the

information would be used in the development of land use goals, policies and standards as part of the upcoming steps in the Butte County General Plan 2030 process.

f. Setting and Trends Report

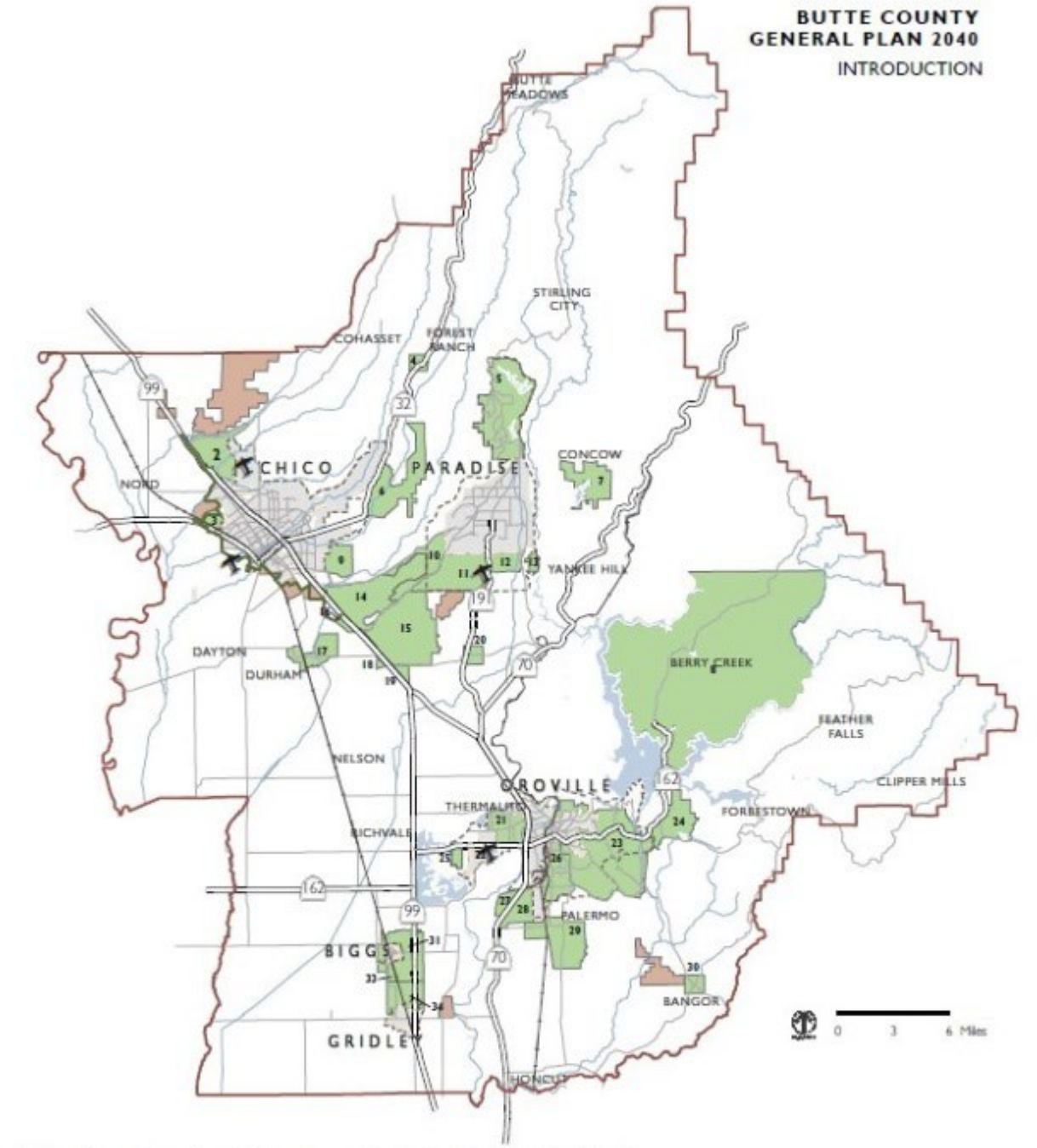
A vital component of the Butte County General Plan 2030 process, the Setting and Trends Report provides background information for the General Plan, and serves as a major source of information for the General Plan 2030 Environmental Impact Report (EIR). This document describes Butte County's existing setting and conditions within 19 different subject areas, and describes trends in growth and development throughout Butte County. Chapter 19 of the Setting and Trends Report is devoted to the community meeting and outreach process, and provides summaries for each of the 19 community meetings held throughout the county, as well as an overview of the first Meeting Series, which was devoted to issue identification. The Setting and Trends Report has also provided valuable information for all of the phases of the update process, including the land use alternatives development, evaluation and selection; the goals and policies development; drafting the General Plan; the HOUSING ELEMENT update; and the Zoning Ordinance update.

g. Land Use Alternatives Study Areas

As part of the alternatives development phase of General Plan 2030, the public, CAC, Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors identified 39 study areas in which potential changes to the existing land use designations should be considered. At the conclusion of Meeting Series #2/3, the Board of Supervisors finalized 31 study areas in the unincorporated county, determining that the existing land use designations for the remaining eight possible study areas should not change. The final set of 31 study areas, as well as the other study areas that were considered but rejected, are shown in Figure IN-2. Under General Plan 2030, the remainder of the land outside of the final 31 study areas consists of areas that were not identified for significant amounts of new growth. However, the Board of Supervisors reviewed the remainder of the county to consider land use changes needed to conform to the updated General Plan. This review resulted in a number of substantive changes, including the following:

- The new Agriculture land use designation replaced the prior General Plan's "Orchard and Field Crops" and "Grazing and Open Land" designations, which affected large portions of the county, particularly outside of the study areas.
- Adjustments were also made to the migratory deer herd land use policies, which affected land use designations in the foothill and mountain areas of the county, which are mostly outside of the study areas.
- Large portions of the county located outside of the study areas were designated "Agriculture Residential" under the previous General Plan. That land use designation was eliminated and replaced with updated designations, such as Agriculture or Rural Residential, which allows rural residential development at densities of approximately 5- to 10-acre lots.
- The new Agriculture Services designation was also implemented in many valley areas outside of the study area. This designation permits agricultural businesses to serve surrounding agricultural interests.

FIGURE IN-2 STUDY AREAS



3. Alternative Evaluation Report

The Butte County General Plan 2030 Alternatives Evaluation Report was used as a source of valuable information throughout Meeting Series #4, which was devoted to the evaluation and selection of the preferred land use alternative. The Report informed the public and decision-makers about constraints and opportunities associated with each land use alternative for each study area, examining topics related to transportation and circulation, fiscal impacts, agricultural impacts, water supply, wastewater infrastructure, biological resources (including the Butte Regional Conservation Plan and Migratory Deer Range), cultural resources, public services, and safety and hazards.

E. How to Use this General Plan

The policies in this General Plan are intended to provide clear guidance to the County for the decision-making process. In general, policies that use the word “shall” are mandatory. Policies that use the word “should” are not mandatory; these policies provide guidance to the County, but the County is not required to follow them if they find that the policy is not appropriate for a particular situation or if there are other factors, such as budget limitations, that would make it difficult to follow the policy direction.

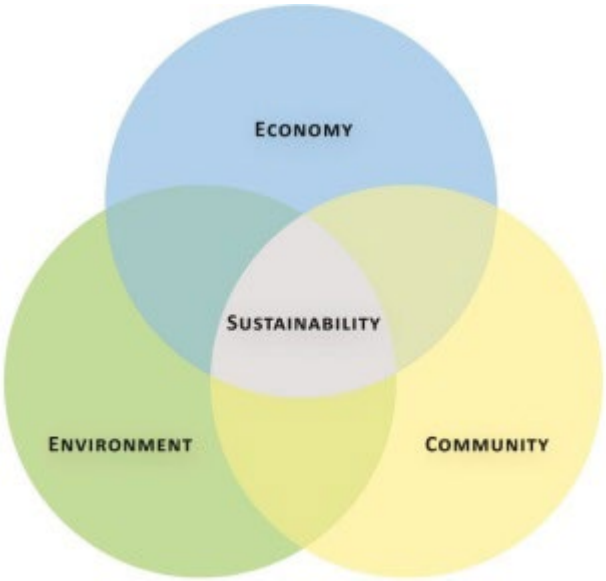
Some policies in this Plan are also required as means to mitigate environmental impacts under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). These policies all use the imperative “shall,” and in all cases are mandatory. These policies are marked with an asterisk (*).

As described in Section D, the General Plan 2030 and 2040 processes involved a wide variety of stakeholders and interests. As a result, this General Plan is intended to meet multiple, and sometimes competing, policy objectives. Therefore, the County may not be able to adhere to every policy in every decision that it makes to implement this Plan. The Board of Supervisors will have discretion over which policy objective it will follow in instances in which there are competing policy objectives affecting a single decision.

F. Vision Statement, Butte County in 2040

Butte County is defined by its rich landscape of valley, hills and mountains and the rivers and creeks that transect them.

The valley is bountiful in the crops it produces and the open space and natural resources it provides. The hills and mountains east of the valley frame the valley and complement its bounty with their own wealth of timber, mineral and biological and ecological resources and recreational opportunities.



The rivers and creeks, the lifeblood of this landscape, provide natural corridors for the wildlife and native plants that sustain the County's rural and natural setting.

The County's settlers, early or most recent, have recognized and valued this unique landscape. They have established their settlements in small, compact urban developments – the incorporated communities of Gridley, Biggs, Oroville, Paradise and Chico and such unincorporated areas as Palermo, Thermalito, Berry Creek, Yankee Hill, Forest Ranch, Cohasset and Durham-Dayton-Nelson – so as to conserve as much of the surrounding natural landscape as possible, thus wisely using land while conserving the County's rich resources. In this manner the County's settlers to date have created a socially, economically and environmentally sustainable community.

The County's current residents, in adopting this General Plan, wish to conserve and enhance the legacy of their forebears, namely, sustainable development, so that Butte County in 2040 will be familiar and comfortable to existing County residents and a desirable place to live for future County residents.

To this end, this General Plan envisions and supports a Butte County in 2040 where:

- Urban development will be primarily centralized within and adjacent to the existing municipal limits and larger unincorporated communities. Urban development will have efficient, reliable public facilities and infrastructure. Employment centers and a range of services will be located near residential areas so that people spend less time in their cars. Residential communities will be walkable, bicycle facilities will be provided, and there will be access to public transit.
- Small unincorporated areas will be well-planned through community-driven planning processes so that community character is preserved and adequate public services and facilities are provided. Rural residential development will be limited and will strive to be compatible with agricultural and environmental uses, and will address wildfire risks and public services needs.
- Agriculture and open space will continue to dominate Butte County's landscape and be an important part of the County's culture and economy. Existing agricultural areas will be maintained and an array of agricultural services will support agriculture while providing new jobs to Butte County residents.
- At the same time, new and innovative high-technology businesses will be located in Butte County, including green business and industry, attracted in part to the natural and urban environment of the County and in part to the opportunities for partnerships with Butte County's educational institutions. Butte County's residents will have a choice of housing types to best suit their individual lifestyles.
- County youth will have safe places to socialize, job and volunteer opportunities, and access to higher education and support services. They will be able to safely walk, bike, or take transit to school, and recreational programs will fulfill their after-school needs.
- Butte County will have safe, clean water for agriculture, residents and businesses. Water resources will be protected through proper planning and regulation, as well as continued research and monitoring by Butte County and its partners in watershed planning.
- Wildlife and native plants will survive and thrive in healthy ecosystems. Sensitive natural resources, including deer herd migration areas, will be protected, and Butte County will continue to coordinate with the Butte Regional Habitat Conservation Plan and Natural Community Conservation Plan.

Residents of and visitors to Butte County will be able to enjoy the area's wealth of natural beauty, recreational opportunities and amenities.

- And, finally, as the cumulative result of the above, Butte County's residents will have access to healthy living and lifestyle options. Through implementation of this General Plan, Butte County in 2040 will be an economically and environmentally sustainable community, the residents of which will enjoy a high quality of life, as did their forebears.



Summer fun in Butte County. Photo courtesy of Calli-Jane Burch, General Plan 2030 Citizens Advisory Committee member.

2 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The overall objectives of the Butte County General Plan 2040 are outlined in the General Plan's Guiding Principles, which describe how Butte County intends to grow and develop through the implementation of its General Plan. These principles were developed at the outset of the process to create General Plan 2030, and reflect input provided by the public, Citizens Advisory Committee and Planning Commission, as well as final direction by the Board of Supervisors.



Rice field in the spring in Butte County. Photo courtesy of the Butte County Department of Development Services.

- **Cooperative Planning.** Through the Butte County General Plan and the municipalities' General Plan update processes, the County will partner with municipalities, special districts and unincorporated communities on important regional planning issues. Furthermore, the County will collaborate with the military to ensure the land uses within military operating areas (MOAs) are compatible with the military mission.
- **Circulation.** Accommodation of all modes of transportation is an important element of the General Plan that will be coordinated with all of the transportation planning agencies.
- **Growth, Urban Development and Housing.** The General Plan addresses areas of urban development for anticipated growth during the next 20 years to meet the housing needs of Butte County residents.
- **Airport Land Use Planning.** The General Plan protects the county airports in coordination with the 2000 Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan.
- **Natural Resources and Environment.** The General Plan addresses the protection, enhancement, utilization and management of natural resources and the environment.
- **Public Health and Safety.** The General Plan promotes the public's health, safety and welfare.

- **Economic Development.** The General Plan plays a critical role in establishing a positive environment for economic development.
- **Agriculture.** The General Plan addresses agriculture as an important aspect of Butte County's economy that will be protected, maintained, promoted and enhanced.
- **Rural Development.** The General Plan identifies appropriate locations and the type of growth that will occur in rural areas while protecting the integrated benefits of agricultural resources, natural resources and the environment.
- **Recreational Opportunities and Protection of Cultural Resources.** The General Plan addresses the need for new parks and recreation opportunities. Cultural resources that are significant to Butte County's history will be identified and protected.
- **Sustainability.** The General Plan addresses, identifies and promotes ways to maintain or enhance economic opportunity, viability and community well-being while protecting and restoring the natural environment.
- **Public Services.** The General Plan addresses where and how the full array of public services and facilities will be provided to the varied and diverse geography of the county.
- **Water Resources.** The General Plan addresses the protection and management of water resources.

3 ABOUT BUTTE COUNTY



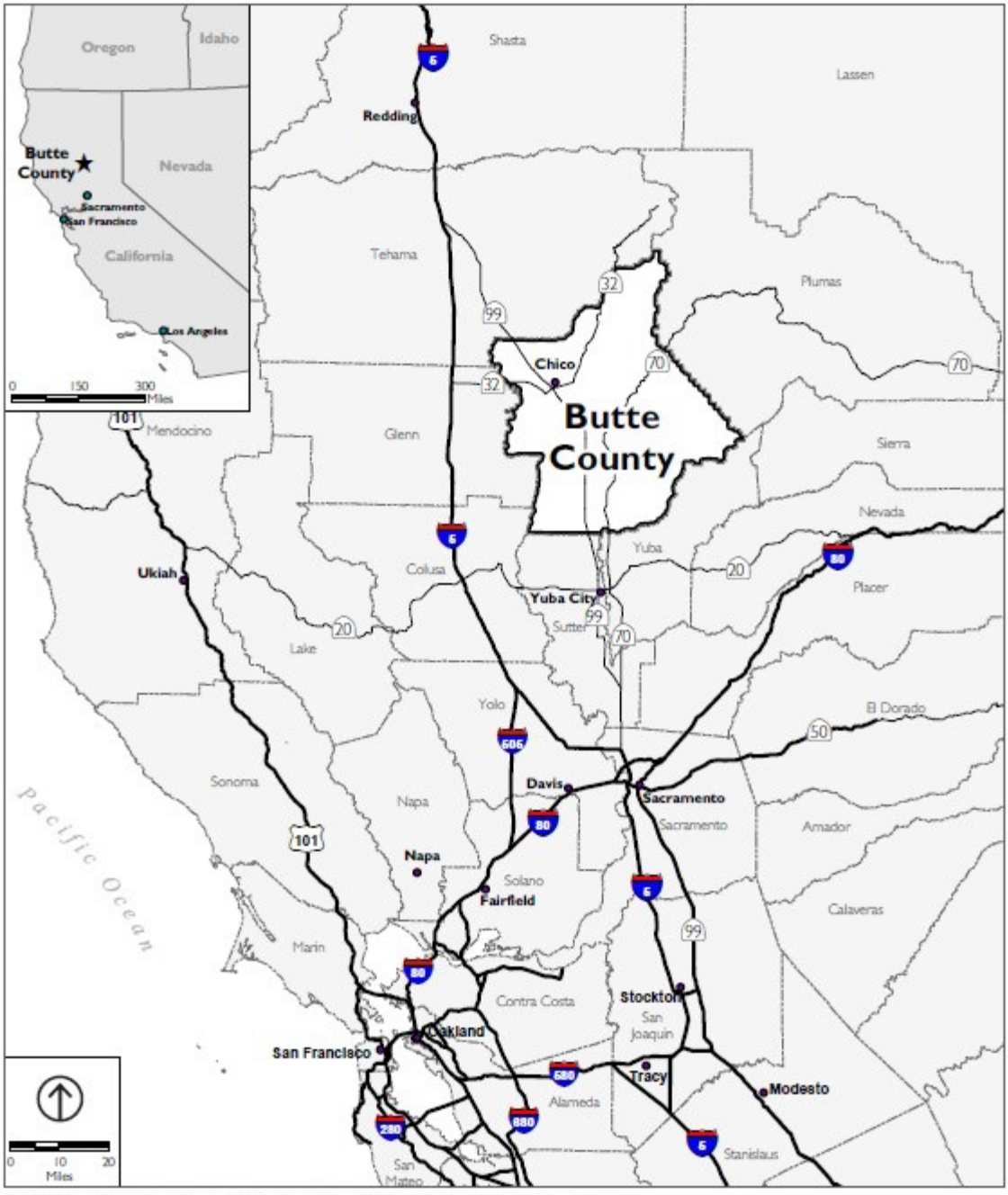
Butte County's stunning natural beauty is key to its high quality of life. Photo courtesy of Richard Coon, General Plan 2030 Citizens Advisory Committee member.

This chapter provides an overview of Butte County, describing its regional location, landscape, history, economy, demographics and character.

A. Regional Location

Butte County lies in north central California at the northern end of the Sacramento Valley, approximately 150 miles northeast of San Francisco and 70 miles north of Sacramento. Butte County's regional location is shown in Figure BC-1. Butte County is bounded on the west by Glenn and Colusa Counties, with the Sacramento River and Butte Creek forming portions of the westerly boundary. To the north and northwest, the county adjoins Tehama County; to the east, Plumas County; to the west Glenn and Colusa Counties; and on the south and southeast, Sutter and Yuba Counties. The South Fork of Honcut Creek forms the southeast boundary with Yuba County. Aside from the lines of demarcation created by the Sacramento River, Butte Creek and Honcut Creek, the county's boundaries do not reflect natural features or changes in landscape character.

FIGURE BC-I REGIIONAL LOCATION



Source: PlaceWorks, Butte County General Plan 2030 Setting & Trends Report, 2007.

FIGURE BC-I
REGIONAL LOCATION

B. Landscape

Butte County is located in the northeastern part of the Sacramento Valley and extends into the northern Sierra Nevada mountain range. The county's total land area including incorporated municipalities is approximately 1,680 square miles (1,073,000 acres) and ranges in elevation from approximately 60 feet above sea level in the southwest corner of the county, adjacent to the Sacramento River, to 8,100 feet above sea level in the northeast corner of the county, near Butte Meadows. Humboldt Peak, located in northeastern Butte County, is the county's highest point. The county's three general topographical areas, the valley region, the foothills east of the valley and the mountain region east of the foothills, are distinct environments each with their unique wildlife and natural resources.

Defined by mountains, hills and rivers, the valley is where Butte County shows off its agricultural bounty. Occupying almost half of the county's land, the valley is a wide and expansive green plain, neatly divided with hedge rows that protect acres of cropland, nut and fruit orchards, and meadows for livestock grazing. Late spring brings inundated wetlands with slim green rice stalks protruding from the water's surface, and migratory birds rising in their flocks from the wetlands. Fresh water from the Sierra Nevada snowpack is fed into the valley from the Feather River, the Sacramento River and Butte Creek, where wildflowers and butterflies bring color to the water's edge.

A beautiful view of the Sacramento Valley is afforded from the foothill region, which encompasses a quarter of Butte County's land area. One of the most picturesque views is along the Skyway, a scenic road with expansive views of the county's palette of dark browns and greens, dusty oranges and yellows, and a backdrop of reds and blacks painted on the buttes. The foothill region is where the valley meets the forest. Winding forest roads lead to the Town of Paradise, as well as smaller communities tucked into the hillsides and under the tall canopy of the pine forest. In addition to humans, foothill residents include herds of migratory deer, bald eagles, the pallid bat and the American peregrine falcon. Feather Falls, the sixth tallest waterfall in the entire United States at 410 feet tall, is a hidden gem of the Butte County foothills. The foothill region also includes the red sand beaches and placid waters of the Lake Oroville State Recreation Area.



Butte Creek Canyon. Photo courtesy of the Butte County Department of Development Services.

The mountain region makes up the remainder of Butte County and encompasses the majority of its eastern border. There is little urban development in this part of the county, and a large amount of the land is State- and federally-owned. Lassen National Forest is located at the northern tip of the county, named for Mount Lassen, a volcano that belongs to southern Cascade Range. Farther south is Plumas National Forest, which is famous for its old-growth trees including Coast Douglas Fir, Ponderosa Pine, White Fir, Red Fir and Jeffrey Pine.

C. History

Butte County's history is rich with Native American, early Spanish and Gold Rush roots.

1. Native Americans

The Native Americans were the first inhabitants of the Butte County area. The county included the territories of four groups of Native American peoples: the Maidu (mountain Maidu), the Nisenan (southern Maidu), the Konkow (northwestern Maidu) and Yana. Many Native Americans continue to reside in the area. The northern county was Maidu territory; they inhabited the mountain valleys from Honey Lake to Lassen Peak and generally at altitudes higher than 4,000 feet. The Nisenan territory was generally bounded by the Sacramento River in the west, the lower Feather River to the south, and the crest of the Sierra Nevada mountains to the east. The Konkow people inhabited the Feather River area, from west of Richbar almost to the Sutter Buttes, and the Sacramento River area from Butte City in the south to Butte Meadows in the north. The Yana people occupied a wide range of the county, from the edge of the Sacramento Valley to the crests of the Cascade and Sierra Nevada mountains.[1] The last member of the Yana tribe was a man called Ishi. Ishi was also the last Native American in northern California to live the majority of his life outside of European American influence. Ishi and his ancestors occupied the foothill region near Mount Lassen, which is modern-day Butte County.

2. Spanish Exploration and Mining

Spaniards explored parts of the area now known as Butte County as early as 1808, in search of mission sites. Hunters and trappers, such as Jedediah Strong Smith and a group of Hudson's Bay Company trappers, explored the present-day Butte County prior to the California gold rush of 1848. At that time, the region was outside the mainstream of both Mexican and American settlement and was scattered with just a handful of ranches on Mexican land grants.[2]

The discovery of gold in 1848 brought an influx of gold seekers to the region. Thousands of miners descended upon the area and set up transitory encampments, such as Bidwell Bar, Long Bar and Hamilton on the Feather River, and others along Butte Creek, where some gold was discovered. Mining camps established during the Gold Rush gradually developed into trading centers for mining and then for lumbering and agricultural goods.

3. Settlement and Development

In the latter part of the 19th century, the Gold Rush waned and the population steadied. The county's economic emphasis shifted back towards agriculture, with many lucrative crops including rice, almonds, walnuts and peaches. In 1850, Butte County became incorporated into the State of California as one of the original 27 counties. In 1856, the county's boundaries were redrawn to their current configuration. The County's first municipality, the City of Chico, was incorporated in 1860. Biggs was incorporated in 1903, Gridley was incorporated in 1905, Oroville was incorporated in 1906, and Paradise was incorporated in 1979.

Railway transportation in California began in the mid-1800s. By 1864 there was a total of 147 miles of track, offering connections between the cities and population centers of San Francisco and San Jose; Folsom, Sacramento, Lincoln and Newcastle; and between Oroville and Marysville. The train from Oroville to Marysville was operated by the Northern Electric Railway, which later became the Sacramento Northern Railway Company. In 1870, a rail connection was made between Marysville and the City of Chico.[3]

The University now known as California State University, Chico was created by legislation enacted in 1887 and was originally called the Northern Branch State Normal School of California. John Bidwell of Chico donated the original plot for its development, and in 1889, the school opened its doors with 90 students enrolled.

Early migrants to the Richvale area quickly realized that the soil was heavy and clay- like, unlike the fertile soil of the San Joaquin Valley. Although the soil was unaccommodating for the crops the settlers were accustomed to growing, Richvale soil was perfect for rice cultivation. In 1912, the first 1,000 acres of rice were planted in the Butte County community of Richvale, the birthplace of California rice cultivation.

Major roadways were another significant development for Butte County in the early 1900s. State Route 162, the major east-west connection in the county, connecting the Mendocino coast to the City of Oroville was established in 1919. State Route 99, the north-south highway running through Gridley and Chico, was paved and finished in the early 1930s, as was State Route 70, the north-south connection from Oroville to Marysville.



An historic gold ore stamp mill. Photo courtesy of Bill Kienzle, General Plan 2030 Citizens Advisory Committee member.

The need to secure water resources for the growing population in southern California prompted the State Legislature to pass the Central Valley Act in 1933. The Act authorized construction of various water projects, both local-serving as well as major State-wide developments that involved transporting from northern California to the south. The Act authorizes the construction of the tallest dam (770 feet) in the United States, the Oroville Dam. Construction of the Oroville Dam and Lake Oroville began in 1961.[4]

Since the 1970s there has been a sharp increase in the amount of development occurring throughout the foothill areas of the county. This development has been associated with an influx of retirement-age residents who moved to Butte County to enjoy its rural setting and take advantage of a relatively low cost of living. In the early 2000s, the unincorporated portion of Butte County experienced greater amounts of residential development spurred by the booming statewide demand for housing. This was especially the case in areas with municipal sewer service, such as Thermalito and southeast Oroville.

Nevertheless, the prime agricultural regions of the county have maintained their productivity and remain economically viable. These lands have been protected from development through a variety of means, including the Williamson Act, which Butte County adopted in 1967; the Chico Area Greenline, created in 1982; the Agricultural Element, adopted in 1995; and the Agricultural Buffer Ordinance, adopted in 2007.

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[1] Johnson, J.J., 1978. Yana. In R. F. Heizer, ed., *Handbook of North American Indians*. Vol. 8, *California*:361–369. (W. C. Sturtevant, general ed.) Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution.

Levy, R., 1978. *The Linguistic Prehistory of Central California: A Processual View*. Tucson, AZ: Paper presented at the annual meeting for the Society for American Archaeology.

[2] McGie, J.F., 1982a. *History of Butte County, Volume I: 1840–1919*. Oroville, CA: Butte County Board of Education.

[3] Robertson, Donald B., 1986, Encyclopedia of Western Railroad History, Volume IV, page 52.

[4] California Department of Water Resources, History of the California State Water Project website, http://www.water.ca.gov/swp/history.cfm, accessed June 16, 2009.

D. Economy

Agriculture has a major influence on the Butte County landscape and its economy and was the County's primary industry in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Manufacturing and service industries also flourished during the twentieth century, as exemplified by the Diamond Match Company, canning, lumber and wood- processing enterprises. Other local industries included the manufacture of lead tube containers and prefabricated houses, structural steel fabrication, olive processing, sugar manufacturing, rice milling, walnut and almond processing and dairy processing.

Agriculture generates considerable economic activity and, as discussed in the Economic Development Element, trends indicate that agriculture will maintain a strong position within Butte County's economy. Agriculture also supports other industrial sectors in Butte County, such as manufacturing, transportation and warehousing, which all generate a significant portion of the total sales volume in unincorporated Butte County. Other strong sales sectors in unincorporated Butte County are construction, wholesale and retail trades, and educational services.

E. Demographics

In recent years, Butte County has seen a decrease in population and households, largely due to the 2018 Camp Fire, which destroyed nearly 14,000 homes, and the 2020 North Complex Fire, which destroyed 2,455 structures. As of January 2020, the population of unincorporated Butte County was approximately 67,600, compared to 83,800 in 2010.[5]

According to the Census Bureau's American Communities Survey, compared to the state, unincorporated Butte County has a larger share of population over 50 (45 percent countywide compared to 33 percent statewide). Correspondingly, there are significantly fewer households with children under 18 years of age in unincorporated Butte County (25 percent) compared to the state average (34 percent). Also compared to the statewide average, Butte County household income is 27 percent lower. The median income in the unincorporated Butte County is $52,537, compared to a statewide median income of $75,235.

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[5] State of California, Department of Finance, May 2020, *E-5 Population and Housing Estimates for Cities, Counties and the State, 2001 to 2020*.

F. County Character

Historically, overall land use patterns in Butte County have been closely related to the natural characteristics of the county's main geographic areas, with population concentrated near the richly productive agricultural land on the valley floor, and more scattered populations in the foothills and mountains.

Urban lands have historically constituted a proportionally small share of total land area in Butte County, although the amount has been increasing over the years, as in other rural California counties. Most of the county's urban land uses, including four of five of the incorporated municipalities, are located in the valley region.

Urban uses in the foothills are concentrated in and adjacent to the incorporated communities of Paradise and Oroville. The slopes east of Oroville have attracted both rural and urban development. Prior to the 2018 Camp Fire, development in the Paradise area was dispersed over the ridges within the Town of Paradise, Paradise Pines, Magalia, and in other unincorporated communities to the north. The Camp Fire damaged or destroyed nearly 14,000 homes, including approximately 2,200 homes in the unincorporated County, primarily in Magalia and Lower Pines. The area is currently working to rebuild and recover from the fire and recently completed the Upper Ridge Community Plan to support redevelopment.

Although no major urban settlements are located in the mountains, smaller communities are distributed throughout the area, including many former mining camps that are now centers of rural residential development or linked to the tourism industry.



Butte County's valley region is dotted with small agricultural communities surrounded by fertile farmland. Photo courtesy of the Butte County Department of Development Services.

Butte County's small towns and communities are displayed in Figure BC-2, and were developed surrounding valuable resources. Farming and ranching towns developed within the valley floor, reflecting the rich agricultural soils and mild climate, proximity to transportation links, and available water supply. Foothill communities originally developed from popular mining camps, where 49ers struck gold or other valuable mineral resources. Small communities still exist in these historic locations.

FIGURE BC-2 BUTTE COUNTY COMMUNITIES

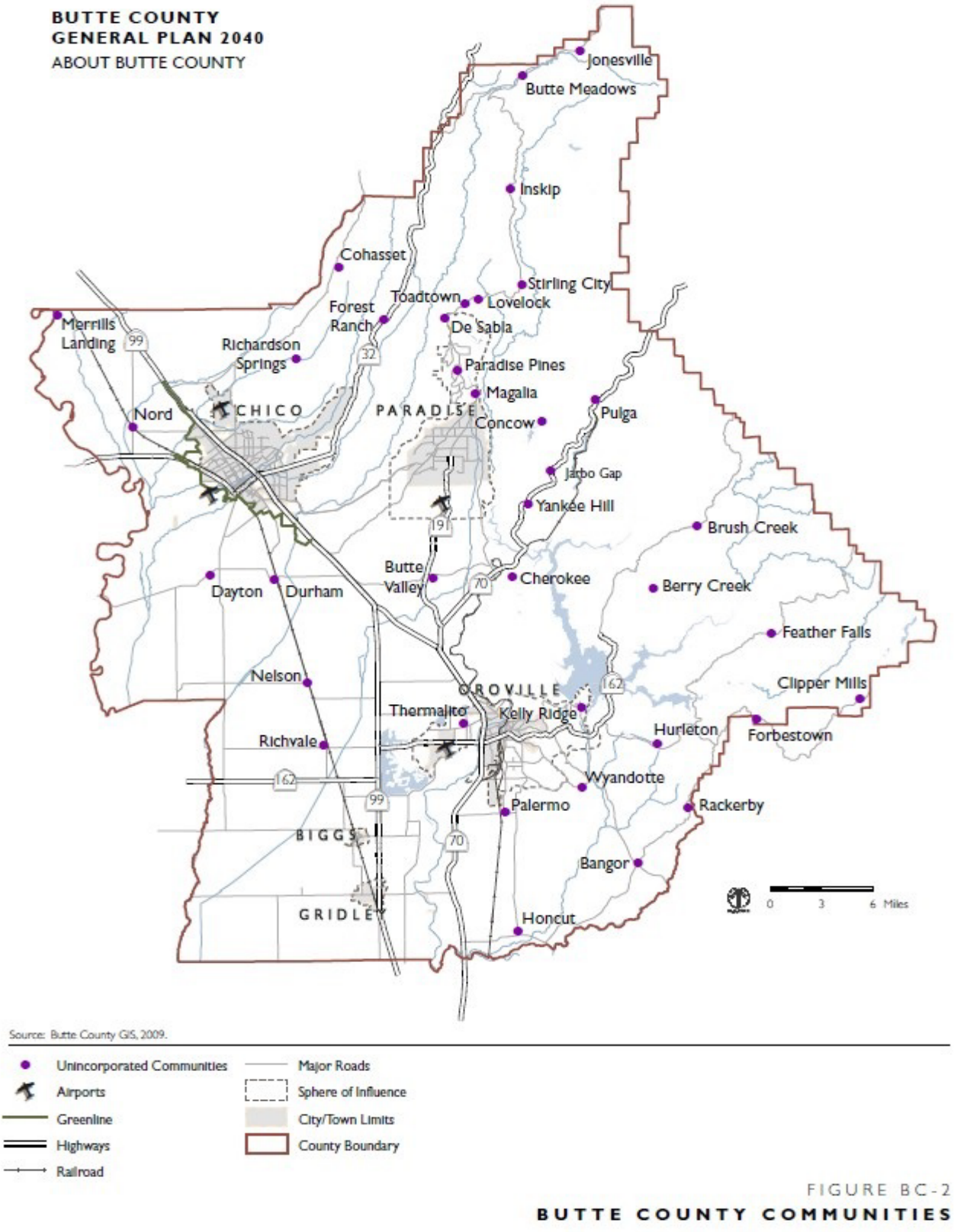


FIGURE BC-2
BUTTE COUNTY COMMUNITIES

Outside of the defined community areas, there is also rural residential, agricultural- industrial and scattered commercial development. Residential development mostly consists of single-family residences, many of which are associated with active farming activities on the same or adjacent parcels. Some smaller parcels have been converted into rural home sites where active farming has been discontinued. Small industrial and commercial complexes, such as feed or machinery sales, well-drilling services, spray operations and food processing are dispersed throughout the valley. Gas stations, small food markets, local-serving retail stores and professional offices also make up some of the non-residential scattered rural land uses.

4 LAND USE ELEMENT



Land use patterns in Butte County. Photo courtesy of the Butte County Department of Development Services.

The Land Use Element shapes the future physical development of Butte County and works to conserve and enhance the current livability and quality of life for Butte County residents. The Land Use Element is not designed to discourage or promote development, but rather to describe the manner in which development should be managed in the event that it does occur.

As required by California Government Code Section 65302(a) and Public Resources Code Section 2762(a), the Land Use Element of the General Plan addresses the following issues:

Distribution, location, and extent of the uses of land for housing, business, industry, open space, natural resources, recreation, and enjoyment of scenic beauty, education, public buildings and grounds and other categories of public and private uses of land.

Standards of population density and building intensity for land use designations.

This Element presents land use and overlay designations and the associated land use map, and discusses the Area Plans, Specific Plans, and Planned Unit Developments that are anticipated under this General Plan. The Land Use Element is divided into the following sections:

- **Background Information.** Provides details on jurisdictional boundaries, existing land uses, and planning efforts in Butte County. An expanded discussion about land use in Butte County is available in Chapter 1 (Land Use) of the Butte County General Plan 2040 Setting and Trends Report.
- **General Plan Land Use Designations.** Describes the characteristics and intensity of each land use designation and contains a map of the application of these designations.
- **General Plan Overlays.** Describes the characteristics of each General Plan overlay.
- **Future Planned Unit Developments, Area Plans, and Specific Plans.** Describes the future Planned Unit Developments, Area Plans, and Specific Plans that are to be developed under this General Plan and provides a general overview of how these areas will develop in the future.
- **Land Use Map.** Illustrates the location and extent of land use designations on each parcel of land in the unincorporated area.
- **Goals, Policies, and Actions.** Provides guidance to Butte County related to land use decisions.

A. Background Information

Butte County uses a variety of tools to plan for future growth, including the General Plan, Specific Plans, and Zoning Ordinance. The following discussion describes these tools, as well as the various applicable jurisdictional boundaries.

1. Jurisdictional Boundaries

Butte County exercises regulatory authority over land use within its boundary and outside the municipal limits of the five incorporated municipalities within the county, which are the Cities of Biggs, Chico, Gridley, and Oroville, and the Town of Paradise. California land use law requires that every city, town, and county adopt a General Plan. Each of the five incorporated municipalities in Butte County has an adopted General Plan that guides development within its limits and its larger planning area. Each of these municipalities also has a Sphere of Influence (SOI). As explained in the INTRODUCTION of this General Plan, the SOI represents the area that each city and town anticipates it will annex and provide services to at some point in the future. Each SOI is defined by the Butte Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO). Land outside of city or town limits, but within the SOI, is considered part of the County and is regulated by the County; however, each jurisdiction is allowed and encouraged to establish future land use designations within its SOI to make a public statement about what land uses it considers appropriate in the area surrounding the city or town limits. The county limits, municipal limits, and SOI boundaries in Butte County are illustrated in Figure LU-1.

Land use discussions in this Element focus on unincorporated Butte County, excluding land inside the limits of the five incorporated municipalities.

2. Military Planning

California Government Code Section 65302 (a)(2), states that the LAND USE ELEMENT: “shall consider the impact of new growth on military readiness activities carried out on military bases, installations, and operation and training areas, when proposing zoning ordinances or designating land uses covered by the general plan for land, or other territory adjacent to military facilities, or underlying designated military aviation routes and airspace.”

In guiding growth and development in Butte County, it is important to consider the critical role of Military Operations Area (MOAs) in support of national defense. Within Butte County, there are several MOAs that function as “highways in the sky” used by military aircraft to practice high- and low-altitude training exercises and routes used to traverse between military installations. Any development or new construction that seriously impacts or hinders the MOAs function and viability is considered an incompatible land use. Planning to ensure that all future land uses are compatible must be an overarching goal of the Butte County General Plan and is addressed in this LAND USE ELEMENT.

FIGURE LU-1 JURISDICTIONAL BOUNDARIES

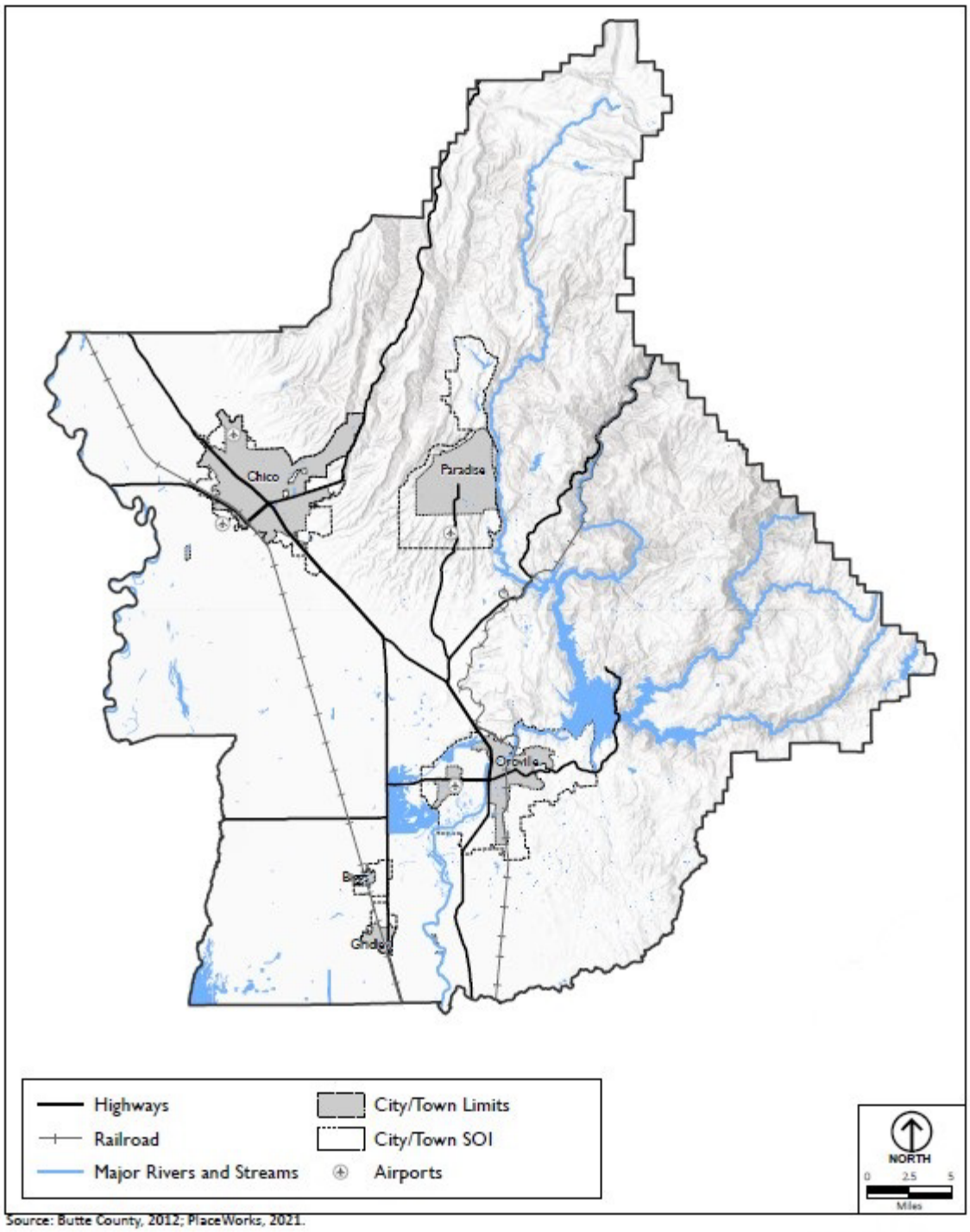


FIGURE LU-1
JURISDICTIONAL BOUNDARIES

1. Existing Land Use

This section provides an overview of the existing land use pattern in Butte County. This information is based on data from the State's Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program. Table LU-1 shows the acreages of generalized land use types in the county, as of 2016. While this table reports the latest available data, the information pre-dates the Camp Fire (2018) and North Complex Fire (2020), which destroyed significant areas of developed uses.

Table LU-1 Acreage of Existing Land Use Types

Category	Acres	Percentage of County
Urban or Developed	46,644	4%
Grazing Land	400,146	37%
Farmland	237,414	22%
Water	23,048	2%
Other Land	365,946	34%

Note: This table includes the acreages of land uses as they exist on the ground, as recorded by the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program. This table does not reflect General Plan land use designations. This data includes incorporated municipalities in Butte County.
Source: 2016 Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program.

a. Urban or Developed Lands

Urban lands constitute a proportionally small share of total land area in Butte County, although it is a share that is increasing annually. In 2016, urbanized and developed land (i.e., residential, commercial, and industrial development) accounted for approximately 4 percent of the total county area.

Most of the county's urban land uses, including four of five of the incorporated municipalities, are in the valley region. Many other small farming and ranching towns developed within the valley floor, reflecting the rich agricultural soils and mild climate, proximity to transportation links for goods transportation, and available water supply.



Single-family residential home. Photo courtesy of the Butte County Department of Development Services.

Urban uses in the foothills are concentrated in and adjacent to the incorporated communities of Paradise and Oroville, which have grown to the east to encompass both valley and foothill areas. The slopes east of Oroville have attracted both rural and urban development. In the Paradise area, development prior to the 2018 Camp Fire was dispersed over the ridges within the Town of Paradise and in the unincorporated communities to the north. Although no major urban settlements are in the mountains, smaller communities are distributed throughout the area, including many former mining camps that are now centers of rural residential development or linked to the tourism industry.

Most of the housing in unincorporated Butte County consists of single-family homes, although there are multi-family homes in areas with public sewer and water systems.

Commercial uses include retail, office, service, and lodging uses. Commercial and office uses are concentrated near the municipalities, in unincorporated communities, and along major transportation corridors.

Existing industrial uses include light manufacturing, heavy industrial, service and repair, processing, and warehousing, as well as industrial uses related to timber, oil, and gas rights. Industrial uses are primarily near the municipalities, along major transportation corridors, and in timber-producing regions.



Commercial use in Forest Ranch. Photo courtesy of the Butte County Department of Development Services.

b. Grazing Land and Farmland

Grazing and farmland are the dominant land use within unincorporated Butte County, accounting for almost 60 percent of all land in the county. A variety of crops can be grown in Butte County because of the temperate Mediterranean climate, including fruits and nuts, field, seed, and vegetable crops. Other agricultural goods, such as livestock, apiary, nursery plants, and timber are also produced in Butte County. This General Plan includes an AGRICULTURE ELEMENT (Chapter 7), which focuses on agriculture.

c. Water

Water is one of Butte County's most important natural resources and it accounts for approximately 2 percent of the total county area. Primary surface waterways include the Feather River, with its several branches; the Sacramento River, which forms the county's western boundary; as well as Butte Creek and Big Chico Creek.

d. Other Lands

"Other land" constitutes about 34 percent of the county's land area. This category includes low-density rural residential, agricultural-industrial, and scattered commercial development, which is dispersed throughout the unincorporated areas. Residential development mostly consists of single-family residences, many of which are associated with active farming activities on the same or adjacent parcels. Some smaller parcels, often referred to as rural ranchettes, have been converted into rural home sites where active farming has been discontinued.

Small industrial/commercial complexes, many of which provide ancillary services to agricultural uses (e.g., feed or machinery sales, well-drilling services, and spray operations), or provide food processing, are also found in dispersed locations. Gas stations, small food markets, local-serving retail stores, and professional offices also make up some of the nonresidential scattered rural land uses.

This land use category also includes vacant and nonagricultural land greater than 40 acres surrounded on all sides by urban development, vegetative areas not suitable for livestock grazing, strip mines, confined animal agriculture facilities, borrow pits, and water bodies smaller than 40 acres.

4. Other Planning Documents

In addition to the General Plan, Butte County has several other plans that guide development in specific areas of the county. These plans are described herein, and the areas covered by each plan are shown on the General Plan Land Use Map in Figures LU-2A and LU-2B. Additional similar plans could be put in place by the County during the life of this General Plan.

- **Zoning Ordinance.** The Zoning Ordinance is the regulatory tool that implements the General Plan. The Zoning Ordinance includes the zoning map; land use regulations and development standards for each zoning district; general regulations regarding parking, signs, landscaping, density bonuses, and nonconforming uses, structures, and parcels; standards for unique land uses that require more specific regulation; land use and development approval procedures; and procedures for public noticing and conduct of public hearings, appeals, amendments and enforcement.
- **Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan.** The Butte County Airport Land Use Commission is charged with promoting land use compatibility around the county's airports and the MOAs as a means to minimize public exposure to excessive noise and safety hazards. This is accomplished through the preparation and periodic update of an Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan (ALUCP), the most recent of which was adopted in 2017. Public Utilities Code Section 21676 requires the County's General Plan land use designations to be in conformance with the land use plans and policies of the adopted ALUCP, unless the Board of Supervisors specifically chooses not to do so by a two-thirds majority vote. The ALUCP covers the Chico Municipal Airport, the Oroville Municipal Airport, Paradise Skypark Airport, and Ranchaero Airport.
- **Durham-Dayton-Nelson Area Plan.** The Durham-Dayton-Nelson Area Plan was adopted in 1992 and covers the unincorporated communities of Durham, Dayton, and Nelson in west-central Butte County. The Plan establishes land use policies for this area and designates it as an urban reserve. Policies for the area include the prohibition of rural residential development and uses on parcels less than three acres until such time as they are needed for development and adequate services are available to serve the area. The Durham-Dayton-Nelson Area Plan is provided in Chapter 13, Area and Neighborhood Plans Element.
- **North Chico Specific Plan.** The North Chico Specific Plan was adopted in January 1995. The plan area encompasses 3,590 acres bounded by Sycamore Creek to the south, State Route 99 to the west, Rock Creek to the north, and Chico Municipal Airport to the east. The purpose of the North Chico Specific Plan is to comprehensively respond to development proposals and incorporate them into a concept for land use for the area, while evaluating and providing for area-wide solutions to drainage, circulation, and public services. The County is currently in the process of amending the Specific Plan to guide development of the North Chico Village site within the plan area.
- **Stringtown Mountain Specific Plan.** The Stringtown Mountain Specific Plan, adopted in September 1994, addresses design criteria and development standards for the future development of a health resort and residential community in the foothills east of Oroville, at State Route 162 and Forbestown Road. The development foreseen in the Specific Plan has encountered obstacles to its implementation, primarily because of issues with provision of sewer service.
- **The Rio d'Oro Specific Plan.** The Rio d'Oro Specific Plan, adopted on May 19, 2015 (Resolution #15-077) determines the mix of uses that will occur in a 689-acre area along State Route 70, south of Oroville. The Specific Plan limits development to no more than 2,700 dwelling units of mixed residential types. Commercial areas for this Specific Plan are limited to 30 acres of Retail and Office designation to be located along the northern portion of the Specific Plan area. Smaller areas dedicated to public and commercial uses will be in the southeast portion of the Specific Plan area at State Route 70 and Palermo Road. There are additional steps that need to be completed before the

Rio d'Oro Specific Plan can be developed. Although the northern-central portion of the Specific Plan area is already zoned for high-density residential and such development is permitted by right, sewer, water, and power access are needed prior to development. Prior to developing the remaining area, the following steps are required: a General Plan amendment and rezone, an ordinance that sets specific development standards for the area, some land acquisition, a development agreement negotiation process, and a fiscal analysis.

- **Upper Ridge Community Plan.** The purpose of this Community Plan is to support recovery and rebuilding efforts from the Camp Fire and foster resilient and thriving communities. To achieve this aim, the Upper Ridge Community Plan sets a vision and provides policy guidance for the Upper Ridge communities north of the Town of Paradise.

In addition to these County planning documents, the City of Chico approved the Chico Valley Edge Specific Plan (VESP) on January 3, 2023. It is intended to serve as the blueprint for 1,448 acres in the City of Chico's SOI, in the Doe Mill/Honey Run Special Planning Area. The VESP establishes a comprehensive framework for coherent, context-sensitive growth and conservation, balancing residential development with preservation of the natural environment. Annexation to the City of Chico must occur before implementation of the project.

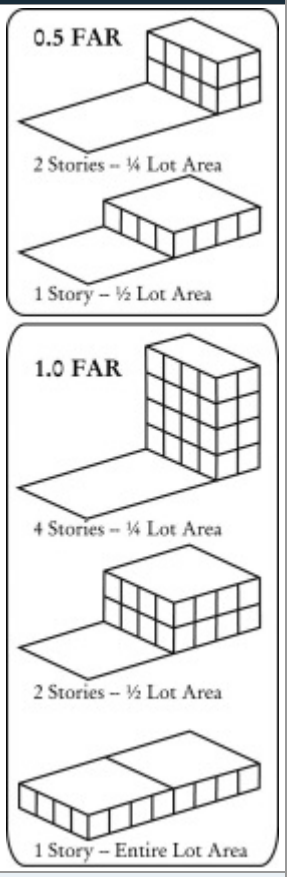
5. Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities

Through Senate Bill (SB) 244, State law requires that general plans address the needs of disadvantaged unincorporated communities (DUCs), which are communities with an annual median household income that is less than 80 percent of the statewide annual median household income and within an incorporated jurisdiction's SOI, an island within an incorporated jurisdiction's boundary, or is geographically isolated and has existed for at least 50 years. DUCs often lack adequate infrastructure to sustain public health and safety, which can foster economic, social, and educational inequality. Therefore, the law requires that counties and cities identify DUCs, analyze infrastructure and fire service needs and deficiencies, and assess potential funding mechanisms for expansions of services and facilities. With each update to the County's HOUSING ELEMENT, the County identifies DUCs, evaluates their infrastructure and service deficiencies, and assesses potential funding mechanisms to address those deficiencies. As required by State law, this LAND USE ELEMENT includes goals, policies, and actions to address infrastructure deficiencies, as they are identified in each update to the DUC analysis.

B. General Plan Land Use Designations

This section describes the General Plan land use designations for Butte County. The land use designations are intended to help implement the future vision of Butte County, as reflected in the goals, policies, and actions of this General Plan, while also providing flexibility for landowners.

The land use designations described in this Element establish the types and intensity or density of uses allowed on each parcel; these densities and intensities are listed in Table LU-2. The land use designations establish minimum and maximum allowable gross densities. New development must fall within the density range established by the land use designation for a given area or parcel. Density, as referred to in Table LU-2, does not determine a limit in parcel size. Second dwelling units, as defined under State law, are not to be included in determining the overall density calculations allowed under Table LU-2.

Table LU-2 Density and Intensity of Land Use Development			
Land Use Designation	**Allowable Range of Residential Density***	**Allowable Maximum Floor Area Ratio**	
Agriculture	1 unit per 20 to 160 acres		
Agriculture Services	--	0.8	
Timber Mountain	1 unit per 160 acres		
Resource Conservation	1 unit per 40 acres		
Foothill Residential	1 unit per 1 to 40 acres		
Rural Residential	1 unit per 5 to 10 acres		
Very Low Density Residential	up to 1 unit per acre		
Low Density Residential	up to 3 units per acre		
Medium Density Residential	up to 6 units per acre		
Medium High Density Residential	up to 14 units per acre		
High Density Residential	14 to 20 units per acre		
Very High Density Residential	20 to 30 units per acre		
Mixed Use	4 to 20 units per acre	0.5	
Retail and Office	--	0.4	
Recreation Commercial	--	0.4	
Sports and Entertainment	--	0.4	
Industrial	--	0.5	
Research and Business Park	--	0.5	*Examples of floor-area ratio (FAR) and building coverage.*
* This is the allowable range of overall residential density and does not limit the parcel size, nor does it apply to second dwelling units.			

The boundaries of the land use designations are delineated as specifically as possible, in most cases following parcel lines. Figure LU-2A maps the locations of the land uses designations (shown in more detail for the Chico area in Figure LU-2B), and Table LU-3 summarizes the acreage for each land use designation.

FIGURE LU-2A GENERAL PLAN LAND USE DESIGNATIONS

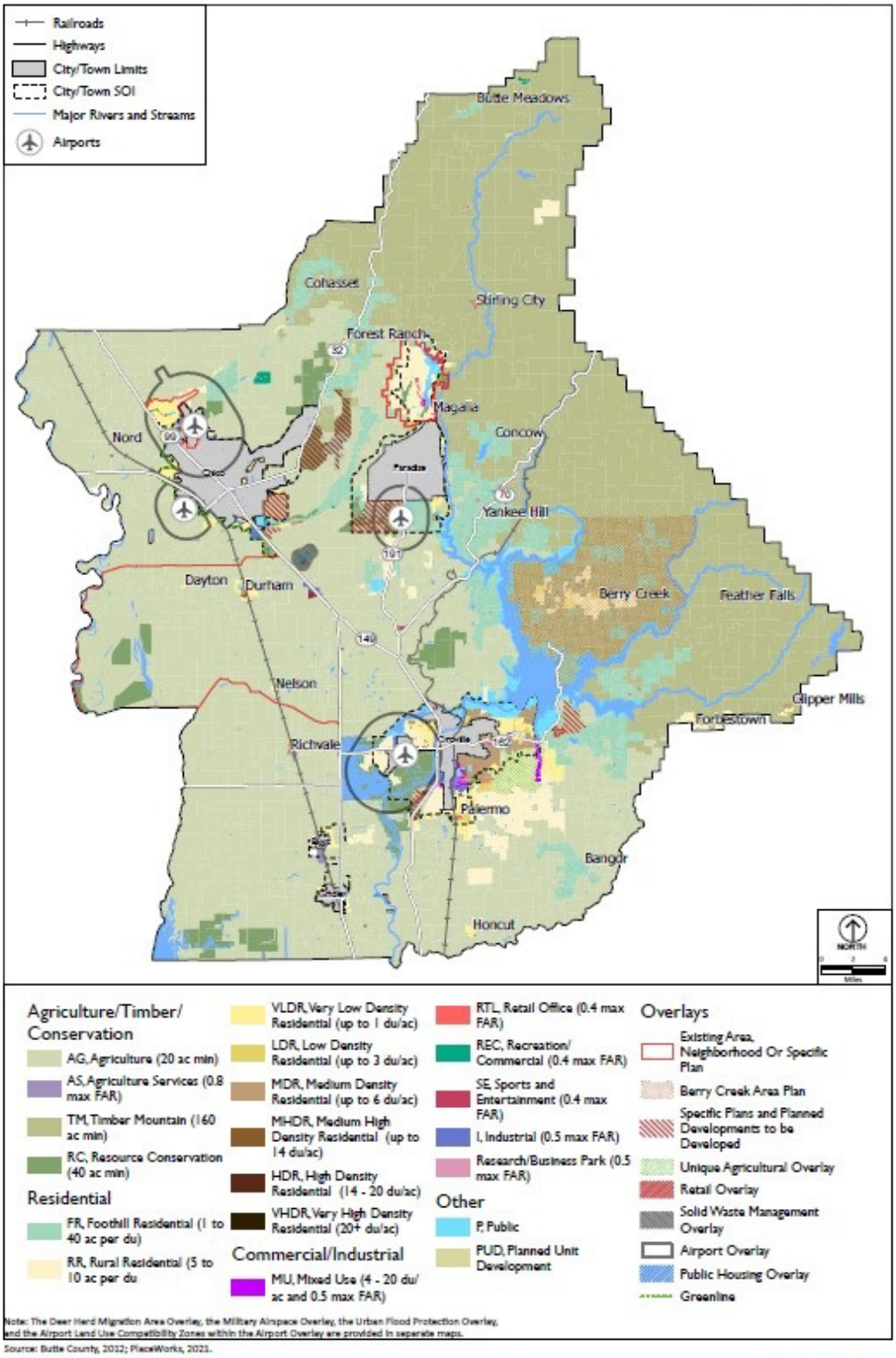


FIGURE LU-2A
GENERAL PLAN LAND USE DESIGNATIONS

FIGURE LU-2B GENERAL PLAN LAND USE DESIGNATIONS – CHICO AREA

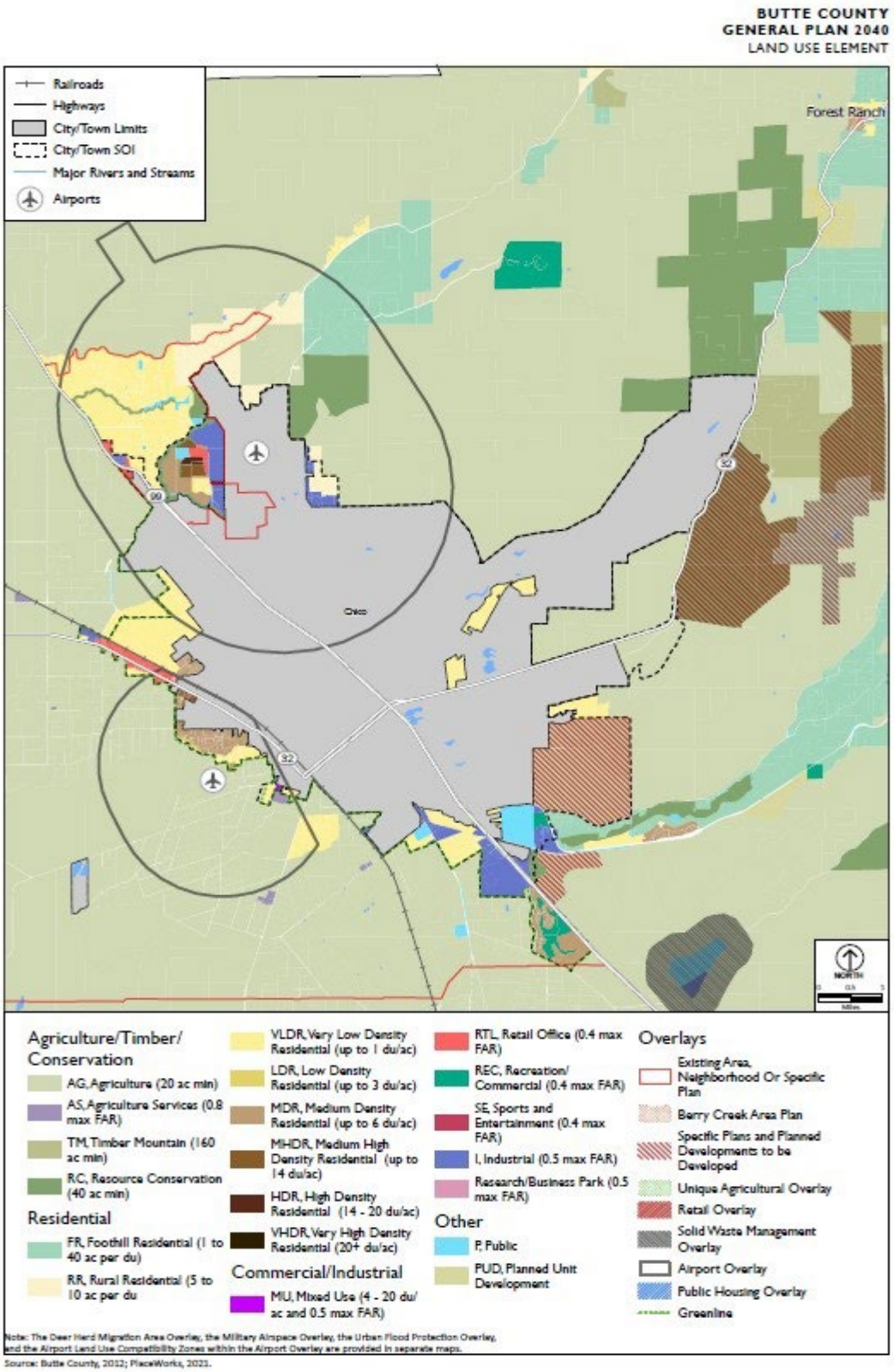


FIGURE LU-2B
GENERAL PLAN LAND USE DESIGNATIONS — CHICO AREA

Table LU-3 General Plan Land Use Designation Acreages	
Land Use Designation	**Acres**
Agriculture	474,282
Agriculture Services	616
Timber Mountain	349,522
Resource Conservation	37,258
Foothill Residential	62,669
Rural Residential	33,089
Very Low Density Residential	11,530
Low Density Residential	1,267
Medium Density Residential	5,390
Medium High Density Residential	355
High Density Residential	71
Very High Density Residential	8
Mixed Use	1,077
Retail and Office	1,334
Recreation Commercial	929
Sports and Entertainment	103
Industrial	2,362
Research and Business Park	101
Planned Unit Development	891
Public	31,100
Undesignated rights-of-way	14,355
Total	**1,028,309**
Note: These acreages exclude incorporated areas. Source: PlaceWorks, 2022.	

In this General Plan, standards of building intensity for residential uses are stated as the allowable range of dwelling units per gross acre, including roads, easements, and the like. This means that the number of allowable units on a parcel can be calculated by multiplying the total number of acres by the allowable density.

Standards of building intensity for non-residential uses are stated as maximum FAR based on gross acreage. FAR is a ratio of the gross building square footage permitted on a lot to the gross square footage of the lot. For example, on a site with 10,000 square feet of land area, a FAR of 1.0 will allow 10,000 gross square feet of building floor area to be built. On the same site, a FAR of 2.0 would allow 20,000 square feet of floor area. This could take the form of a two-story building with 100 percent of lot coverage, or a four-story building with 50 percent lot coverage. A FAR of 0.4 would allow 4,000 square feet of floor area.

The goals, policies, and actions contained in this Element provide additional direction on how the various land use designations should be developed to contribute to the overall character of and vision for Butte County. These designations are also implemented through the zoning designations applied in the County's Zoning Ordinance. More than one zoning district may be consistent with a single General Plan land use designation.

1. Agriculture, Timber, and Conservation Designations

These designations are intended to protect, conserve, and enhance Butte County's natural and agricultural resources.

a. Agriculture

This designation allows the cultivation, harvest, storage, processing, sale, and distribution of all plant crops, especially annual food crops, as well as roadside stands for the sale of agricultural products grown or processed on the property.

The Agriculture designation also allows livestock grazing, animal husbandry, intense animal uses, and animal matter processing. Alternative energy facilities are allowed in the Agriculture designation, subject to permit requirements. Residential uses in the Agriculture land use designation are limited to one single-family dwelling and a second dwelling unit per legal parcel. Farm labor housing is also permitted. The minimum parcel size is between 20 to 160 acres, although existing parcels smaller than the minimum may remain as legal parcels.

b. Agriculture Services

This designation allows all agricultural uses described above, as well as agriculture-related services that are complementary to existing agricultural uses, including industrial uses such as processing facilities, commercial uses such as agricultural equipment sales, and technologies that use agricultural byproducts.

Alternative energy facilities are allowed in the Agriculture Services designation, subject to permit requirements. No residential uses are allowed, except for caretakers' residences. This designation allows for a maximum FAR of 0.8.

c. Timber Mountain

This designation allows forest management and the harvesting and processing of forest products. Lands zoned Timber Preserve are in this designation. Alternative energy facilities are allowed in the Timber Mountain designation, subject to permit requirements. Residential uses are limited to one single-family dwelling per legal parcel. The minimum parcel size is 160 acres, although existing parcels smaller than that minimum may remain as legal parcels.

d. Resource Conservation

This designation allows natural, wilderness, and study areas, as well as limited recreational and commercial recreational uses that do not detract from the area's value for habitat, open space, or research. Residential uses are limited to one single-family dwelling per legal parcel, except in the North Chico Specific Plan and Rio D'Oro Specific Plan areas, where residential uses in the Resource Conservation designation are prohibited. The minimum parcel size is 40 acres. Existing legal parcels smaller than the minimum may remain as legal parcels.

2. Residential Designations

Seven residential land use designations allow for residential uses ranging from very-low-density farmsteads and low-density single-family homes to duplexes and multi-family structures. Secondary dwelling units are also allowed in all residential land use designation categories, except in the North Chico Specific Plan, and are not to be included in the overall density calculations for a given designation. In every residential designation, existing legal parcels smaller than the minimum may remain as legal parcels. The residential land use designations also allow for public and quasi-public land uses that serve the community. Examples of allowable uses include churches, schools, parks and recreational facilities, fire stations, libraries, day care facilities, community centers and other public uses.

a. Foothill Residential

This designation allows single-family dwellings at rural densities of 1 dwelling unit per 1 to 40 acres, depending on the zoning.

b. Rural Residential

This designation allows single-family dwellings at rural densities of 1 dwelling unit per 5 acres to 10 acres (0.1 to 0.2 units per acre), depending on zoning.

c. Very Low Density Residential

This designation allows single-family dwellings at densities up to 1 dwelling unit per acre (0.2 to 1 unit per acre).

d. Low Density Residential

This designation allows single-family dwellings at densities of up to 3 dwelling units per acre.

e. Medium Density Residential

This designation allows detached and attached single-family dwellings at densities of up to 6 dwelling units per acre.

f. Medium High Density Residential

This designation allows a mixture of urban residential uses, including detached and attached single-family homes, duplexes, townhomes, condominiums, multiple-dwelling structures, mobile home parks, group quarters, and care homes, at densities up to 14 dwelling units per acre.

g. High Density Residential

This designation allows higher-density urban residential uses, including townhomes, condominiums, multiple-dwelling structures, mobile home parks, group quarters, and care homes, at densities of 14 to 20 dwelling units per acre.

h. Very High Density Residential

This designation allows high-density urban residential uses, including townhomes, condominiums, multiple-dwelling structures, mobile home parks, group quarters, and care homes, at densities of 20 to 30 dwelling units per acre.

3. Commercial and Industrial Designations

These designations identify locations that are appropriate for a wide range of businesses, including retail, manufacturing, offices, and services.

a. Mixed Use

This designation allows mixed but compatible uses in close proximity to each other, including residential, retail, service, lodging, and office uses. Townhomes, garden apartments, apartments, live/work units, and condominiums are the types of residences that would typically be found in this designation. Mixed-use buildings with two or more uses in the same structure are encouraged in this designation, but single use residential, retail, or office buildings are also allowed. Since this designation allows for both residential and commercial uses, it allows a wider residential density range and a higher FAR than other designations and is applied to areas along major roads with adequate infrastructure and amenities to support higher densities. This designation allows 4 to 20 dwelling units per acre and a maximum FAR of 0.5.

b. Retail and Office

This designation allows structures and activities providing a full range of merchandise and services to the general public, as well as professional/office uses. Residential uses are allowed when it can be shown that such uses will be operated in conjunction with a commercial use. This designation allows for a maximum FAR of 0.4.



Kelly Ridge Golf Course. Photo courtesy of General Plan 2030 Citizens Advisory Committee member Michael Evans.

c. Recreation Commercial

This designation allows recreation and tourism-related uses. Examples of uses that are considered appropriate under this designation include, but are not limited to golf courses, shooting ranges, archery ranges, eating and drinking establishments, food and beverage sales, wedding facilities, gasoline service stations, public buildings, hotels and motels, offices, owner-occupied residences, RV parks, resorts, and vacation cabins. Many uses under this designation are subject to a conditional use permit to ensure compatibility with surrounding uses. However, uses that do not typically conflict with other uses, such as a passive recreation park, are permitted as of right. This designation allows for a maximum FAR of 0.4.

d. Sports and Entertainment

This designation allows sports and entertainment uses as primary uses, including sports facilities, golf courses, theaters, and amphitheaters, as well as a range of related commercial uses that are compatible with the primary uses. The related uses may include localized retail, commercial retail, and service establishments. This designation allows for a maximum FAR of 0.4.

The Sports and Entertainment designation was enacted under Butte County Ordinance 3570, wherein additional information concerning this designation may be found. This designation is unique to several parcels of approximately 100 acres in Butte Valley near the intersections of Highway 70 and Highway 191 (Clark Road).

e. Industrial

This designation allows the processing, manufacturing, assembly, packaging, storage, and distribution of goods and commodities. It also allows for warehouses, storage, logistics centers, trucking terminals, and railroad facilities. Alternative energy facilities are allowed in the Industrial designation, subject to permit requirements. In addition, this designation allows hazardous waste management facilities where it can be demonstrated that potential environmental impacts can be mitigated. Industrial uses are allowed by right where applicants can demonstrate that adequate existing services are already available. This designation allows for a maximum FAR of 0.4.

f. Research and Business Park

This designation allows office, research, and technology-related uses, and is intended to promote green industry. The allowed uses are narrowly defined so as to ensure compatibility between uses. Following is a partial, representative listing of the primary permitted uses:

High and advanced technology; research and development; laboratories, including university-based research; and facilities used for testing and analysis of products or uses.

- Business and professional corporate headquarters, regional offices, and data processing facilities.
- Educational facilities associated with energy, design, construction, agriculture, manufacturing, or utility technologies.
- Clean energy generation, production, or distribution facilities.
- Agricultural finished product manufacturing facilities.
- Cultural, recreational, agricultural, and environmental tourism facilities and centers.

Industrial uses are limited to those manufacturers who are engaged in the production of low volume, high value products and particularly advanced technology products. Businesses requiring outdoor production and storage are prohibited. This designation allows for a maximum FAR of 0.5.

4. Public Designation

This designation allows large facilities owned and operated by government agencies, including schools, colleges, airports, dams and reservoirs, disposal sites, recreation facilities, conservation areas, fire stations and other government buildings and property. Alternative energy facilities are allowed in the Public designation, subject to permit requirements. It also allows quasi- public uses such as churches, hospitals, museums, private schools, day cares, cemeteries, and institutional uses.

5. Planned Unit Development Designation

This designation identifies future developments that will be considered under a Planned Unit Development application, as identified in Figure LU-2A. The intent of this designation is to encourage and take advantage of opportunities for more integrated, flexible, and superior design than is available through the application of conventional regulation. Section D.1 of this Land Use Element gives additional information about specific Planned Unit Developments envisioned in this General Plan.

C. General Plan Overlays

This section describes the overlays of the General Plan. An overlay is applied over an underlying land use designation. Overlays provide more specific regulations than the underlying designation, or they identify the area for a future planning effort such as an area plan or specific plan. These overlays are described below and in Table LU-4. The overlays are displayed in Figures LU-2A and LU-2B, with the exceptions of the Deer Herd Migration Area Overlay, which is displayed separately in Figure LU-3; the Urban Flood Protection Overlay, which is displayed separately in Figure HS-2B; and the Military Airspace Overlay, which is displayed separately in Figure LU-4. In addition, the Airport Land Use Compatibility Zones within the Airport Overlay are shown in Figure LU-5.

Table LU-4 General Plan Overlays

Overlay	Acres
Berry Creek Area Plan Overlay	50,720
Specific Plan Overlay (Specific Plans and Planned Developments to be Developed)	11,218
Specific Plan Overlay (Existing Specific Plans)	100,760
Unique Agriculture Overlay	4,384
Retail Overlay	117
Solid Waste Management Facility Overlay	1,216
Airport Overlay	39,415
Deer Herd Migration Area Overlay	319,911
Public Housing Overlay	46
Military Airspace Overlay	200,038
Total	**727,825**

Source: PlaceWorks, 2022.

FIGURE LU-3 DEER HERED MIGRATION AREA OVERLAY

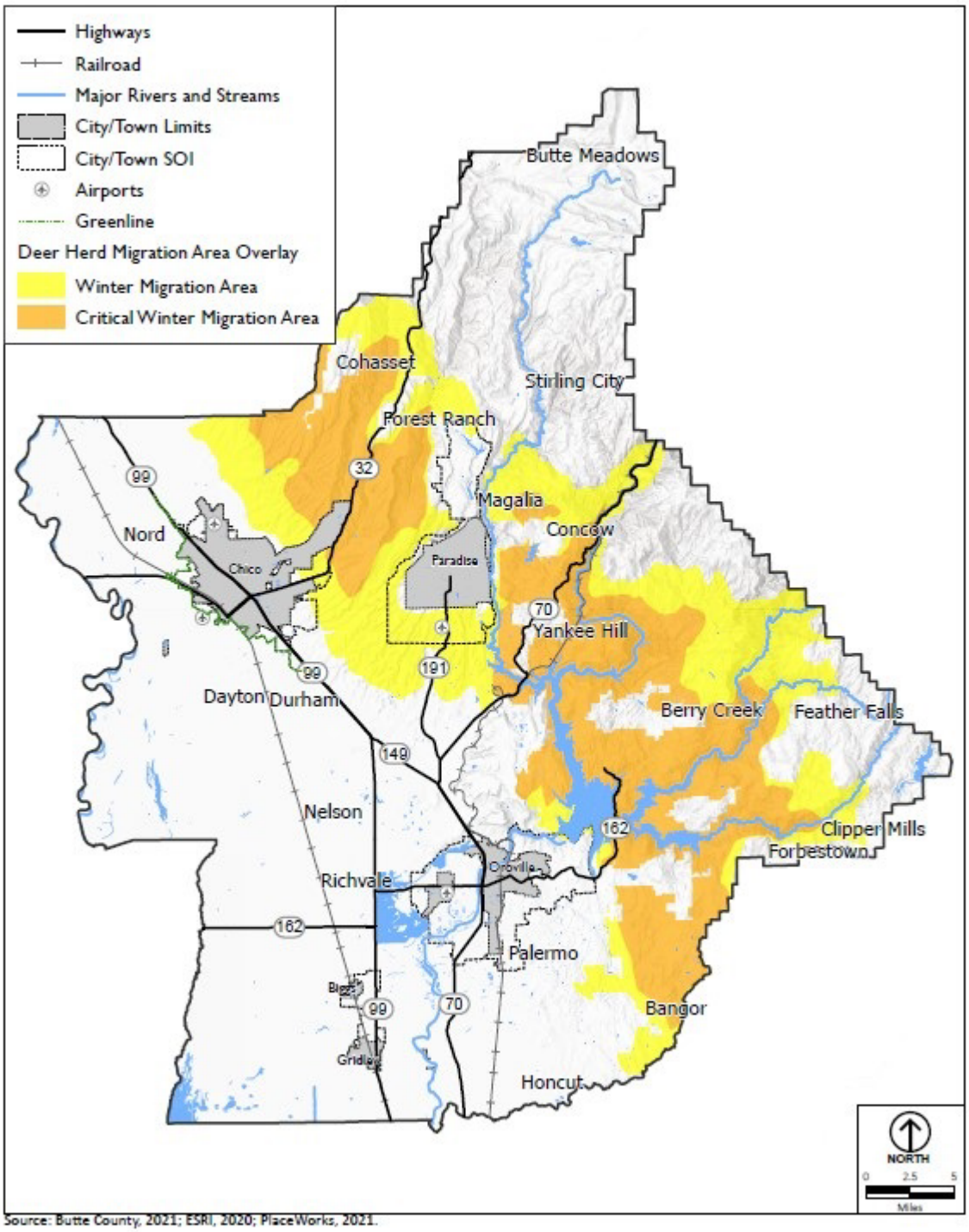


FIGURE LU-3

DEER HERD MIGRATION AREA OVERLAY

FIGURE LU-4 MILITARY AIRSPACE OVERLAY

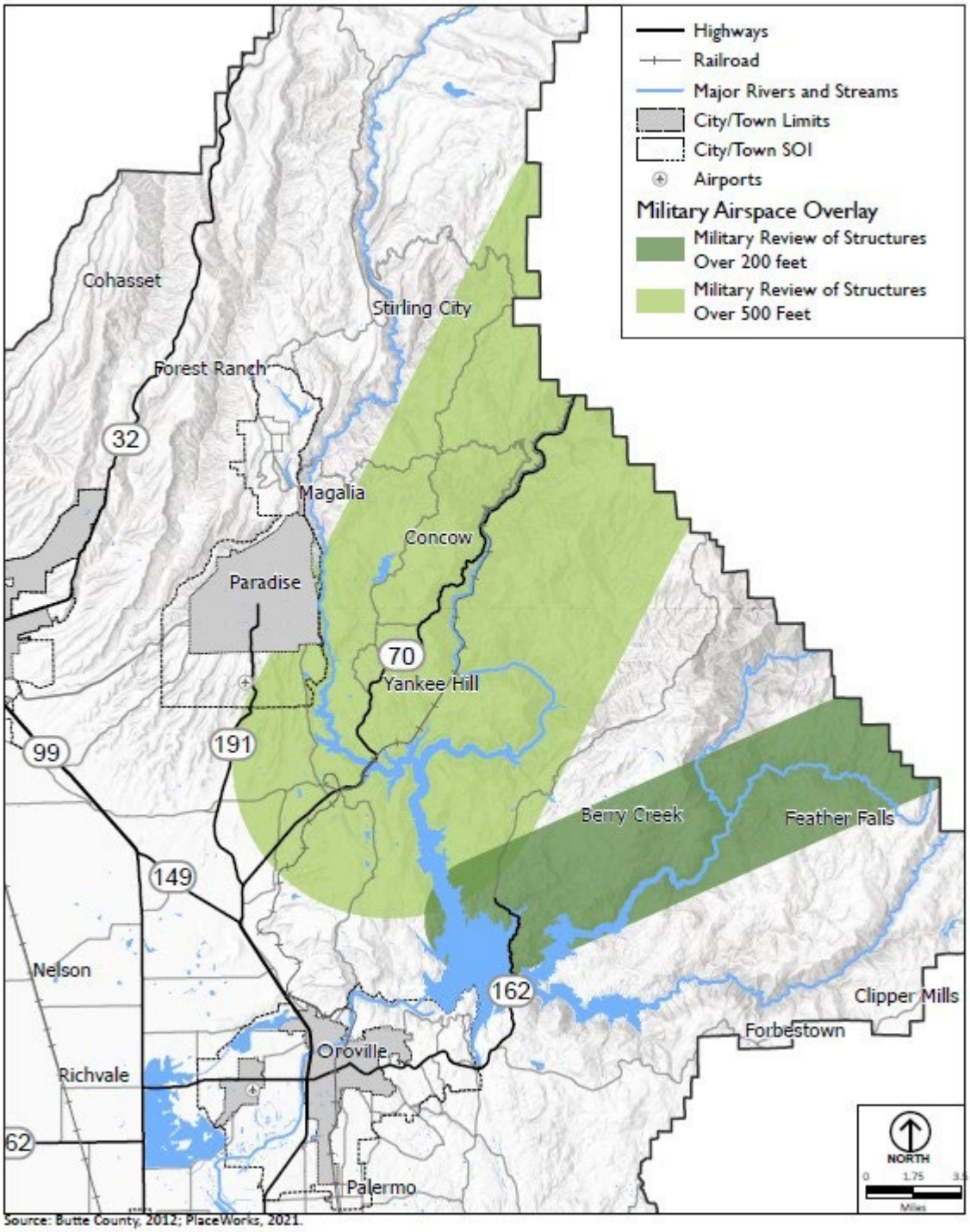


FIGURE LU-4
MILITARY AIRSPACE OVERLAY

FIGURE LU-5 AIRPORT LAND USE COMPATIBILITY ZONES

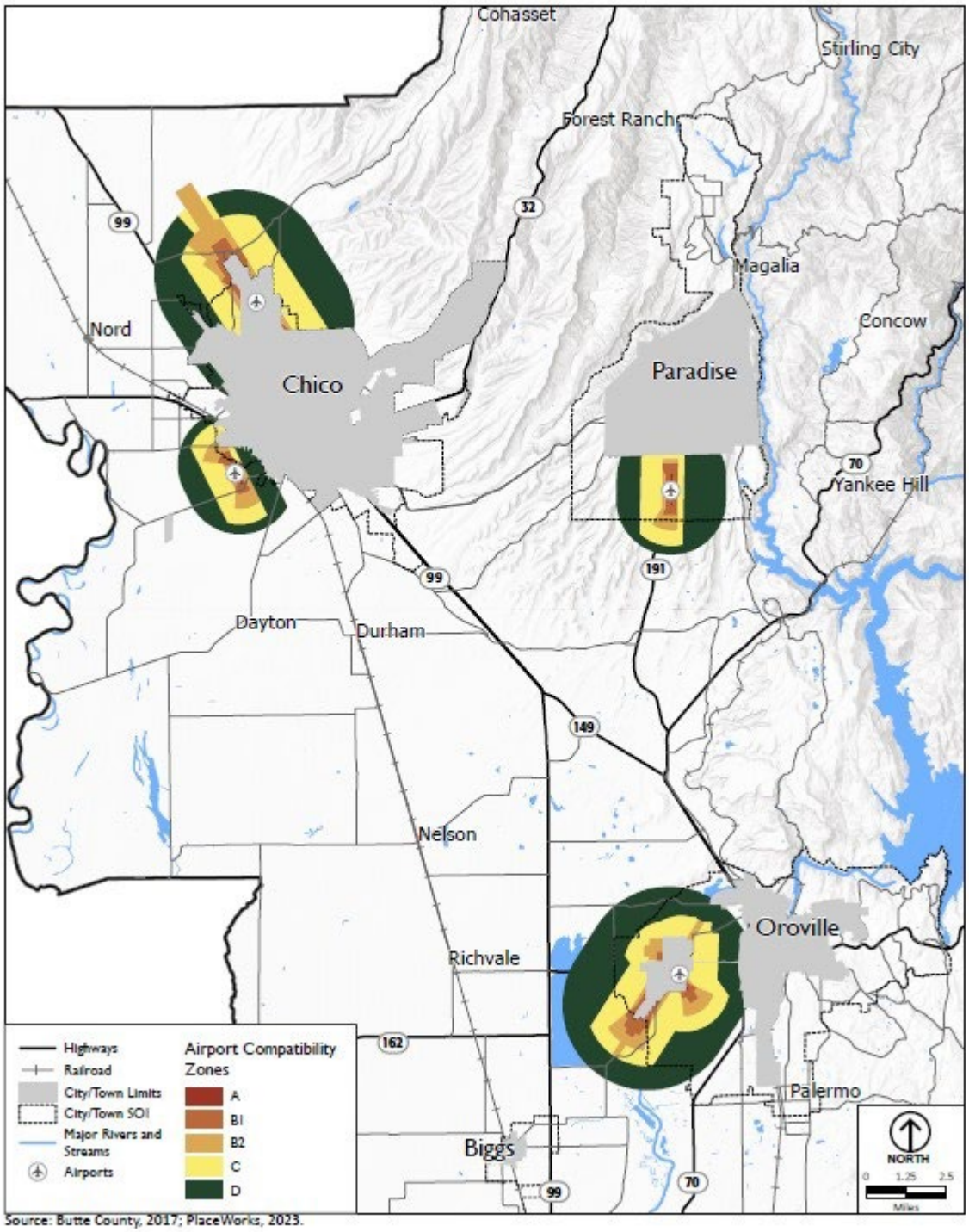


FIGURE LU-5
AIRPORT LAND USE COMPATIBILITY ZONES

1. Existing Area, Neighborhood, Specific, or Community Plan Overlay

As described in Section A.4 of this LAND USE ELEMENT, an Area Plan, Neighborhood Plan, or Specific Plan has already been developed and adopted for the following areas:

- North Chico
- Durham-Dayton-Nelson
- Stringtown Mountain
- Rio d'Oro Specific Plan
- Upper Ridge Community Plan

These existing plans should be consulted for policies specific to each area. This Land Use Element's land use designations within these areas are generally consistent with the applicable Area, Neighborhood, Specific, or Community Plan. There are separate development standards that apply in these areas, which are identified in the Zoning Ordinance.

2. Berry Creek Area Plan Overlay

This overlay designation calls for the development of an Area Plan for the Berry Creek area by the Berry Creek community. The Plan will include rural residential, retail, public, and agricultural uses. Section D.2 provides additional information about the Berry Creek Area Plan. Until an Area Plan is adopted, any development within this area is subject to the underlying land use designations.

3. Specific Plans and Planned Developments to be Developed Overlay

This overlay applies to areas that are expected to be developed under a Specific Plan or Planned Development. Each Specific Plan or Planned Development will be intended to implement the vision identified in the General Plan. Section D provides additional information about future Specific Plans and Planned Developments. Until a Specific Plan or Planned Development is adopted, any development within this area is subject to the underlying land use designations.

4. Unique Agriculture Overlay

This overlay designation allows agricultural support and specialty agriculture uses either by right or under discretionary permit, regardless of whether such uses are allowed in the underlying Agriculture, Rural Residential, or Foothill Residential designations, as a means to protect and promote small-scale agriculture. Allowed uses include wineries, roadside stands, farm-based tourism, bed and breakfasts, and ancillary restaurants and/or stores, as well as the uses allowed by the underlying designation.

5. Retail Overlay

This overlay allows retail, service, or office uses in addition to the uses allowed in the underlying designation. The retail overlay provides for needed commercial uses in areas that would have otherwise been limited by the base zone.

6. Solid Waste Management Facility Overlay

This overlay allows uses that are accessory and/or related to solid waste and/or septage disposal, as well as uses that are compatible with landfill operations. Compatible uses are uses that do not involve on-going occupation by people; uses that are not bothered by the visual, noise, odor, and traffic issues associated with the landfill; and uses with their own visual, noise, odor, and traffic issues that are not desired elsewhere. Examples of such uses include recycling centers, compost facilities, and other uses that may intercept landfill waste, and some types of recreational facilities.

7. Airport Overlay

This overlay pertains to areas that are within Airport Land Use Compatibility Zones described in Section A.4. The base General Plan 2040 designations within these zones are subject to additional land use restrictions under the 2017 Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan.

8. Deer Herd Migration Area Overlay

The Deer Herd Migration Area Overlay is intended to protect sensitive habitat areas for migratory deer herds while continuing to allow development and the reasonable use of land within these areas. This overlay includes Winter and Critical Winter deer herd migration areas. The Winter Deer Herd Migration Area Overlay requires a minimum lot size of 20 acres, and the Critical Winter Deer Herd Migration Area Overlay requires a minimum lot size of 40 acres. Development may be clustered at smaller lot sizes than these minimums to protect the deer herd areas, provided that the non-development areas are protected under permanent conservation easements.

9. Public Housing Overlay

This overlay is intended to support the continued operation of existing public housing facilities and those facilities under the direct ownership, operation, control, or oversight of a governmental or quasi-governmental agency. This overlay is also intended to support the implementation of the County's HOUSING ELEMENT and to support the County's agricultural labor, special needs, and low- and moderate-income housing communities. This overlay may be combined with the "Public" base zone. The overlay supports a mixed-use living environment developed at a scale that is complimentary and accessory to the primary housing purposes of the site.

10. Military Airspace Overlay

This overlay pertains to areas that are within the MOAs, as depicted in Figure LU-4. The overlay is designed to protect the public safety of persons residing under MOAs by requiring that all new development is compatible with military operations. The MOAs are made up of a three-dimensional airspace designated for military training and transport activities that have a defined floor (minimum altitude) and ceiling (maximum altitude).

11. Urban Flood Protection Overlay

This overlay pertains to SB 5 (2007). SB 5 required the County to update the Zoning Code and the HEALTH AND SAFETY ELEMENT to require flood protection findings in "urban and urbanizing areas" (a developed area in which there are 10,000 residents or more or a developed area or an area outside a developed area that is planned or anticipated to have 10,000 residents or more within the next 10 years) within the 200-year floodplain that could be subject to flood depths of 3 feet or greater (there are no such areas in unincorporated Butte County). SB 5 also required the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to prepare preliminary maps for 200-year floodplains protected by project levees and to provide such maps or notice of availability of other flood risk information to cities and counties in the Central Valley by 2008. The 200-year floodplain mapping provided by DWR to Butte County is derived from a 2002 study prepared by the US Army Corps of Engineers. The 200- year floodplain extends along the County's western edge, as shown in HEALTH AND SAFETY ELEMENT Figure HS-2.

D. Future Planned Unit Developments, Area Plans, and Specific Plans

This General Plan envisions the development of two Planned Unit Developments, the Berry Creek Area Plan, and a number of Specific Plans. This section provides an overview of the vision for these planning areas.

1. Planned Unit Developments

There are three land areas that are intended for development as part of a Planned Unit Development (PUD). These areas are described below.

a. Tuscan Ridge Planned Unit Development

The Tuscan Ridge PUD will determine the mix of uses that will occur in a 165- acre area along the Skyway at the site of the former Tuscan Ridge Golf Course. A mix of residential uses, community commercial uses, and water and/or sanitary sewer facilities provided by a public or private entity may be developed in this area. Additionally, approximately 49 acres of the site would consist of landscaped areas, as well as recreational and open space areas to include bicycle and pedestrian trails. Paradise Summit Planned Unit Development.

The Paradise Summit PUD will determine the mix of uses that will occur in a 333-acre area southeast of Paradise. The PUD will limit development to not more than 312 dwelling units in a clustered development pattern. The Board of Supervisors approved the PUD in 2012 and the applicant subsequently submitted a time extension request to record the final map for the project prior to June 22, 2025.

b. Regional Recreation Campus Planned Development

A future planned development project will determine the mix of uses that will occur in a 264-acre area southeast of Chico shown on Figure LU-2B. The planned development project will identify opportunities for serving the region with active recreation such as baseball, softball, soccer, and football fields, archery courses, and basketball/volleyball courts. The planned development project may include wellness and education centers with ancillary housing and event centers. The planned development will include areas of open space and habitat conservation.

2. Berry Creek Area Plan

Through the Berry Creek Area Plan Overlay, this General Plan identifies Berry Creek as an area for which an Area Plan will be developed by the Berry Creek community. The intent of the Area Plan will be to maintain the rural character of this community while improving opportunities to locate jobs and services in Berry Creek. Any development that occurs prior to adoption of the Area Plan will be subject to the underlying land use designations of General Plan 2040 until and unless the Area Plan is adopted, at which point the land use designations in that Plan will replace the designations in the General Plan.

The future Berry Creek Area Plan will limit development to not more than 300 new dwelling units, in addition to existing development at the time of the Plan's adoption, at rural residential densities in locations suitable for residential development. The Area Plan will allow a total of approximately 20 acres of retail and office uses, primarily along major roads and highways, as well as public uses at locations accessible to Berry Creek residents. The remainder of the area will be designated for Agriculture.

3. Future Specific Plans

There are four areas in the county that are intended for development under a Specific Plan. A "Specific Plan" is defined in the California Government Code (Section 65450 et seq) as a legal tool for detailed design and implementation of a defined portion of the area covered by a General Plan. A Specific Plan includes detailed regulations, conditions, programs, and/or proposed legislation that are needed to implement General Plan designations and policies on a particular site.

The underlying designations for these areas shall remain in effect until and unless the Specific Plan is adopted, at which point the land use designations in that Plan will replace the designations in this General Plan.

In addition to the specific plans described below, the City of Chico approved the Chico Valley Edge Specific Plan (VESP) on January 3, 2023. The VESP is described in more detail in Section A.4. This specific plan will apply to an unincorporated area within the City of Chico SOI and would require annexation to the city prior to implementation.

a. Upper Stilson Canyon Specific Plan

The Upper Stilson Canyon Specific Plan will determine the mix of uses that will occur in a 4,264-acre area east of State Route 32 and northeast of Chico. The Upper Stilson Canyon Specific Plan will limit development to not more than 300 new dwelling units clustered in the southern portion of the Specific Plan area. Specialty agriculture and retail uses that support agriculture may be included. The remainder of the Specific Plan area shall be set aside for open space and conservation uses. In addition, the Specific Plan will ensure that there are no impacts to land uses to the south, including impacts related to road access, and that there will be adequate water supply and access for the proposed development, including the existing Buzztail Community Service District.

b. Paradise Urban Reserve Specific Plan

The Paradise Urban Reserve Specific Plan will determine the mix of uses that will occur in a 3,571-acre area between Neal Road and State Route 191 and south of Paradise. The Paradise Urban Reserve Specific Plan includes the existing Paradise Urban Reserve area, which is an area anticipated for future growth by the Town of Paradise. It is envisioned that the Town of Paradise would develop the Paradise Urban Reserve Specific Plan when the Town requires additional area for growth. The policies that pertain to the Paradise Urban Reserve are as follows. These policies shall remain in effect until a Specific Plan is adopted:

The County's land use policy, zoning and subdivision shall be coordinated with the Town of Paradise and any other service district within the Urban Reserve.

The underlying Rural Residential land use designation south of the town limits, as depicted in Figure LU-2A, shall adhere to the Deer Herd Migration Area Overlay requirements by permitting rural residential development and uses on parcels of not less than 40 acres in the critical winter deer migration area and 20 acres in the winter deer migration area.

Any proposal for a General Plan Amendment, Rezoning or Subdivision that would permit parcels of less than 20 acres to be created shall be coordinated with all public agencies that provide utilities and public services, as well as with the plans of the Town of Paradise for extension of water, On-Site Wastewater Disposal Zone, circulation, and drainage. In addition, any such proposal shall be required to submit the following plans prior to or concurrently with the adoption:

- A capital improvement plan or such other program that indicates where and when physical improvements are to be made, the size of these improvements, standards, phasing of treatment facilities and lines to service the area, and how they will be financed. This plan should be based on the desired land pattern for future growth, the costs of initial service, and the continued operation costs to the designated area.
- A park and open space plan that identifies locations and standards for park and recreation areas to serve future growth, and natural open space areas to be preserved.
- An environmental plan that identifies critical areas that should be protected from development if applicable.
- A street and transportation plan that indicates the location, capacity, and nature of the system and off-site transportation impacts.
- A detailed sewage and water provision plan that includes a complete assessment report of the soil and water conditions on the parcel and that specifies how the proposed development will meet the Public Health Department standards for the design, placement and construction of on-site

wastewater systems and water wells. Additionally, areas where wells and on- site wastewater systems are not permissible must be identified.

- A fiscal plan that identifies the proportion of costs of public facilities and services that is to be reimbursed from new subdivisions.

Any parcel that is now below the minimum parcel size requirements of the General Plan land use designations and overlays that was legally created, pre- existing, and nonconforming may be developed according to its zoning and the nonconforming use provisions of the Butte County Code.

Development standards compatible with the Town of Paradise shall be utilized for urban development projects with the Urban Reserve area.

c. Stringtown Mountain Specific Plan (Existing and Proposed Specific Plan)

The proposed Stringtown Mountain Specific Plan will determine the mix of uses that will occur in a 1,239-acre area adjacent to and east of the existing adopted Stringtown Mountain Specific Plan, which is 157 acres in size. The proposed Specific Plan will limit development to not more than 2,700 dwelling units of mixed residential types. The land use designations and policies of the existing Stringtown Mountain Specific Plan, including resort uses, will remain unchanged, as referenced in Section C.a.

E. Goals, Policies, and Actions

1. Land Use Map

The land use map in Figure LU-2A has been developed following the policies herein, which should be followed in any future amendments.

Goal LU-1	**Continue to uphold and respect the planning principles on which the County's land use map is based.**

Policies

LU-P1.1 The County shall protect and conserve land that is used for agricultural purposes, including cropland and grazing land.

LU-P1.2 The County shall promote economic development and job- generating industry in unincorporated areas.

LU-P1.3 The County shall minimize potential conflicts between agricultural and urban uses.

LU-P1.4 The County shall support agriculture by allowing agricultural services in agricultural areas.

LU-P1.5 The County shall conserve timber resources.

LU-P1.6 The County shall conserve important habitat and watershed areas, while protecting the public safety of County residents.

LU-P1.7 The County shall support and coordinate with the planning efforts of the incorporated municipalities.

LU-P1.8 The County shall support community planning efforts by and for unincorporated communities.

LU-P1.9 The County shall allow commercial services and retail within unincorporated communities.

LU-P1.10 The County shall limit development in foothill and mountain areas that are constrained by fire hazards, water supply, migratory deer habitat, or infrastructure.

2. General Land Use and Planning

Goal LU-2 **Provide for orderly, well-planned, and balanced growth that maintains private property rights.**

Policies

LU-P2.1 The County shall allow reasonable "freedom of choice" of sites and facilities for the population growth of the county, both in the county as a whole and targeted to specific areas.

LU-P2.2 Economic use and value of private property shall be maintained.

LU-P2.3 The County shall support planning efforts in unincorporated communities by providing knowledge, time and materials to community efforts.

LU-P2.4 As resources become available, the County shall engage willing and interested unincorporated communities in community planning processes to set a community vision and develop Area Plans. Urban growth boundaries, community boundaries and spheres of influence may be developed as part of such processes.

LU-P2.5 The Development Services Director shall maintain a list of development projects approved by Butte County. When approved development reaches 80 percent of residential units and nonresidential square feet projected in the General Plan 2040 EIR, Butte County shall update the General Plan 2040 EIR.

Goal LU-3 **Create communities where there is a sense of well-being where families and neighbors can socialize, interact, and play.**

Policies

LU-P3.1 The County shall encourage housing that meets the needs of the local workforce, jobs that are suitable for local residents, and programs that reduce commuting and improve opportunities to live and work in the same community.

LU-P3.2 The County shall encourage connectivity and a sense of community in all newly developed neighborhoods.

LU-P3.3 Newly-developed neighborhoods shall include parks and recreation facilities. Sidewalks, bike paths, and other routes shall provide circulation to surrounding areas.

LU-P3.4 Newly-developed neighborhoods shall create a safe environment by providing adequate lighting and clearly-marked crosswalks.

LU-P3.5 The Butte County Sheriff's Office shall continue to support neighborhood watch programs, including programs in commercial areas, so that residents and visitors enjoy a safe and comfortable environment.



Clotilde Merlo Park. Photo courtesy of General Plan 2030 Citizens Advisory Committee member Todd Hall.

Goal LU-4 **Provide high-quality housing in a range of residential densities and types.**

Policies

LU-P4.1 The integrity and stability of existing residential neighborhoods shall be promoted and preserved.*

LU-P4.2 Residentially-designated land with High Density Residential and Very High Density Residential land use designations shall be developed at or above the minimum density range.

LU-P4.3 Generally, higher density housing shall be along collector and arterial streets and within easy walking distance of public facilities.

Goal LU-5 **Provide adequate land for and promote the development of attractive commercial and industrial areas and uses that provide goods, services, and jobs.**

Policies

LU-P5.1 The County shall support businesses and entrepreneurs by streamlining and providing information about County permit processes.

LU-P5.2 Industrial and heavy commercial uses shall be grouped into integrated industrial parks.

LU-P5.3 New industrial uses shall be designed to avoid adverse impacts to adjacent uses, particularly residential neighborhoods, with respect to, but not limited to, noise, dust and vibration, water quality, air quality, agricultural resources, and biological resources.*

Goal LU-6 **Provide adequate land for the development of public and quasi- public uses, as a means to provide necessary public services and facilities in support of existing and new residential, commercial, and industrial land uses.**

Policies

LU-P6.1 The County will encourage school districts and park and recreation districts to locate school sites and parks within or adjacent to existing or planned residential and mixed use neighborhoods.

LU-P6.2 Specific Plans, Master Plans, Area Plans, Neighborhood Plans, or Planned Unit Developments shall designate adequate, appropriately-located land for County, special district, and school district facilities.



Industrial use in Biggs. Photo courtesy of the Butte County Department of Development Services.

LU-P6.3 New County government buildings and other public and quasi- public uses, such as hospitals, meeting halls, and private schools, shall be in existing urbanized areas in

convenient, central locations that provide maximum access for the maximum number of residents.

LU-P6.4 Development projects that provide lands for private open spaces, parks, community service facilities, such as places of worship and daycare facilities, and public facilities may be allowed to transfer density to other portions of the site.

Goal LU-7 Promote public participation in the County's planning processes.

Policies

LU-P7.1 The County shall use multiple channels, including digital and print media and community radio stations, to publicize opportunities for community engagement to ensure access for everyone, including those without home computers or Internet.

LU-P7.2 The County shall engage young people in long-range planning processes and other County-administered programs and processes through outreach and partnerships with schools and local youth organizations.

LU-P7.3 The County should transition to accessible outreach materials for those with sensory disabilities (e.g., visually impaired and/or deaf or hard of hearing).

LU-P7.4 Consideration of General Plan amendments shall include broad public participation through the use of public meetings, local groups, questionnaires and other methods and notification of affected property owners.

LU-P7.5 The public shall be engaged in any process to establish or modify urban growth boundaries.

LU-P7.6 Sponsors of new development projects shall have early and frequent communication with affected citizens and stakeholders.

3. Infill Development

Goal LU-8 Promote development near existing infrastructure and services, and within already-developed areas.

Policies

LU-P8.1 Industry shall be near major transportation facilities.

LU-P8.2 The County shall direct projected growth to areas where the appropriate level of transportation infrastructure is or will be available during the planning period.

LU-P8.3 Applicants intending to develop sites served by existing public facilities shall be encouraged to develop at the highest allowable density and intensity.

LU-P8.4 New industrial development shall be encouraged to locate in existing industrial areas until existing industrial areas have been fully utilized.

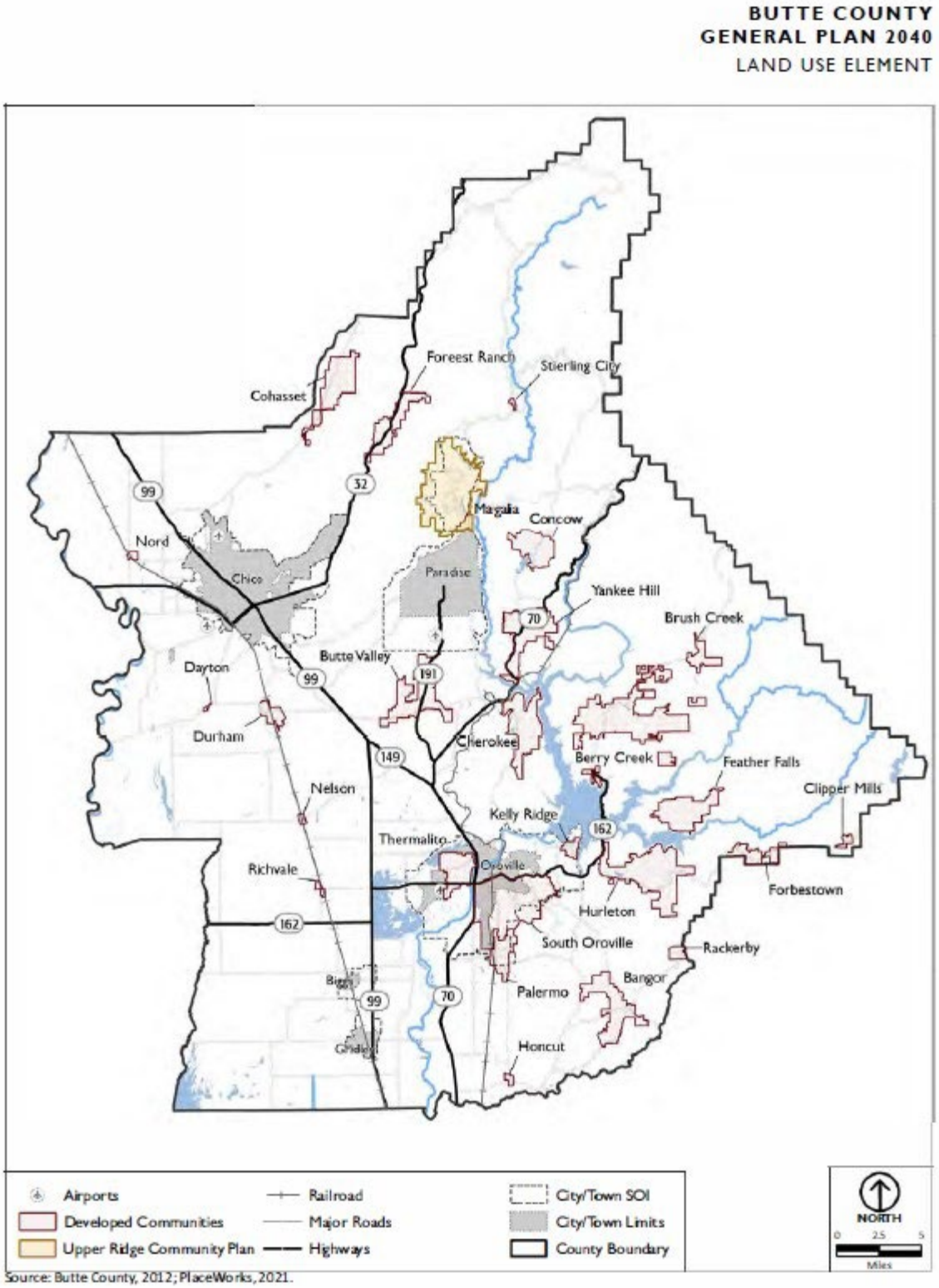
LU-P8.5 Stores providing goods and services to support daily life in neighborhoods should be within walking distance to the majority of neighborhoods.

LU-P8.6 The County shall encourage the construction of housing near employment centers, along with additional employment-generating uses near areas that are primarily residential.

LU-P8.7 Land use patterns and development shall support the State's ability to achieve its vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction goals, and the County's own VMT thresholds of significance.

LU-P8.8 The County may exempt projects within developed communities, as depicted in Figure LU-6, that are consistent with this General Plan and associated zoning regulations from additional review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), as allowed under Section 15183 of the CEQA Guidelines.

FIGURE LU-6 DEVELOPED COMMUNITIES



Source: Butte County, 2012; PlaceWorks, 2021.

FIGURE LU-6
DEVELOPED COMMUNITIES

Actions

LU-A8.1 Amend the County's California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines to include streamlining for developed communities.

4. Infrastructure Planning

Goal LU-9 **Coordinate land development with provision of new services and infrastructure.**

Policies

LU-P9.1 The County shall work with municipalities and service providers to ensure that services are available for new development and consistent with master plans.

LU-P9.2 The County shall strive to balance development densities, consistent with the level of service expectations of the CIRCULATION ELEMENT.

LU-P9.3 The County shall work cooperatively with the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO), municipalities and all irrigation districts if annexation of agricultural areas is proposed for urban development to ensure the integrity of irrigation structures that serve off-site landowners.

LU-P9.4 Applicants shall provide evidence of adequate infrastructure capacity to serve the projected buildout of proposed development projects.

LU-P9.5 New development projects shall provide their own infrastructure, tie into existing infrastructure, or be required to provide infrastructure that will tie into future infrastructure, as determined by the Department of Development Services and other affected agencies.

LU-P9.6 Large development projects, as determined by the Department of Development Services that may not be served at adequate levels by existing public services (e.g., staffing, equipment, and facilities) shall be subject to additional fiscal review before gaining full entitlements to develop. The applicant shall prepare a fiscal impact analysis that identifies any fiscal mitigation measures needed to ensure that the County will be able to maintain adequate service levels and fiscal sustainability.

Actions

LU-A9.1 Update the Facilities Master Plan to identify new public facilities that will be built in the next 5 to 10 years.

LU-A9.2 Conduct regular groundwater quality testing in the Palermo disadvantaged unincorporated communities (DUCs) and coordinate septic system renovations and/or installation of a centralized sewer system, if required based on the test results.

LU-A9.3 Monitor new development in all disadvantaged unincorporated communities (DUCs) and periodically coordinate with CAL FIRE about whether additional capital improvements and capacity are needed to respond to population growth and/or increases to fire risk.

LU-A9.4 Review the analysis of disadvantaged unincorporated communities (DUCs) with each subsequent HOUSING ELEMENT update and update the associated information, policies, and actions as needed to reflect new conditions.

Goal LU-10 **Ensure that services and infrastructure are adequately funded.**

Policies

LU-P10.1 The County shall consider the creation of additional assessment districts, county service areas and/or special districts to fund and manage new and improved infrastructure.

LU-P10.2 New development projects shall pay their fair share of public improvement costs for countywide infrastructure, facilities, and services, and shall fund needed infrastructure and facilities proportionately to the cost of providing infrastructure and services.

LU-P10.3 Applicants for new development projects that will not be adequately served by existing infrastructure and facilities and/or through the adopted countywide impact fee program shall prepare a public facilities financing plan that identifies the needed public improvements and establishes a plan to pay for and develop the required public improvements.

LU-P10.4 Applicants for development projects requiring major discretionary approvals, as determined by the Department of Development Services, shall negotiate development agreements with the County to ensure that the County's interests will be protected. Terms of development agreements shall be negotiated on a case-by-case basis and shall be commensurate with a project's anticipated impacts. All development agreements shall include sunset provisions if development projects do not proceed in a timely manner.

LU-P10.5 Where development is likely to occur after annexation to a municipality, negotiate revenue sharing agreements, either on a master revenue sharing agreement basis or on a case-by-case basis, to ensure that if municipalities annex unincorporated areas, the County will have access to adequate revenues to maintain countywide services that will extend to new development in the municipalities.

Actions

LU-A10.1 Maintain a development impact fee to fund the proportionate cost of public needs created by new development.

LU-A10.2 Continue to set aside a portion of General Fund monies each year to fund existing development's share of new public facilities costs that cannot be charged to a development impact fee program or develop other sources of revenues to generate funds.

5. Coordinated Planning and Sphere of Influence Issues

Goal LU-11 Effectively coordinate planning efforts with the municipalities.

Policies

LU-P11.1 The County shall continue to collaborate on planning and building within the municipalities' spheres of influence to establish consistent development standards.

LU-P11.2 In conjunction with annexation agreements involving residential development, seek to transfer the applicable portion of the County's Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) to the annexing jurisdiction.

LU-P11.3 Staff shall review all General Plan updates, General Plan amendments and major development project proposals for each municipality and inform municipal staff of project/plan consistency with County plans.

LU-P11.4 Staff shall also refer all County General Plan amendments, Zoning Code amendments, and development projects within a municipality's General Plan Planning Area to that municipality for review and comment.

Actions

LU-A11.1 Hold annual or more frequent “one-on-one” meetings with each of the municipalities to discuss planning and land use issues of concern.

LU-A11.2 Hold annual or more frequent meetings between Butte County Planning Division staff and each of the municipalities planning staffs to discuss planning and land use issues of concern. Publish summary notes of the findings of those meetings.

LU-A11.3 Adopt the municipalities’ building design regulations and apply these regulations to development projects within the respective municipality’s sphere of influence. Such regulations shall not include reviews by a design review board.

LU-A11.4 Engage in a collaborative community-level planning process with the City of Chico in the Bell Muir area, as funding provides.

Goal LU-12 Coordinate planning efforts within the county and region.

Policies

LU-P12.1 The County shall coordinate County government plans and programs so that they are mutually supportive.

LU-P12.2 The County shall work closely with the Local Agency Formation Commission to ensure that the County's General Plan is considered in the review of all boundary changes.

LU-P12.3 The County shall work closely with the Local Agency Formation Commission to ensure that spheres of influence and land use plans in all areas of the county are supported by the County.

LU-P12.4 The County shall coordinate planning efforts with those of special districts and school districts.

LU-P12.5 The County shall consider the most current Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan in General Plan and Zoning decisions and shall be consistent with it.

LU-P12.6 The County will cooperate to create a broad regional planning authority covering Butte County and its neighboring counties and identify strategies for coordinated planning in the region.

LU-P12.7 The County will work cooperatively with municipalities to establish urban growth boundaries in conjunction with appropriate revenue sharing agreements for annexations.

LU-P12.8 Staff shall notify all local public agencies of the Government Code requirements for review of public works projects and solicit their assistance and timely submittal of proposed projects.

Actions

LU-A12.1 Coordinate with LAFCO, the municipalities, and special districts to develop a coordinated countywide growth and annexation strategy in close coordination with LAFCO.

LU-A12.2 Work closely with Butte County Association of Governments (BCAG) and the Butte County Air Quality Management District (BCAQMD) during the development of the Air Quality Attainment Plan and the Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy to ensure that this General Plan is adequately considered.

6. Chico Area Greenline

Goal LU-13 **Plan for growth and protect agriculture in the Chico area through the Chico Area Greenline.**

Policies

LU-A13.1 Maintain the Chico Area Greenline, which shall be located as shown on Figure LU-7.

LU-A13.2 Should a dispute arise or ambiguity appear as to the exact location of the Chico Area Greenline, apply the following rules in determining the exact location of such line:

a. The Greenline is specific; large scale maps certified by the Development Services Director shall be consulted in the event of a dispute.

b. Where the Greenline is indicated as approximately following a street, alley, railroad right-of-way, creek or channel lines, the centerline of such street, alley, railroad right-of-way, creek or channel lines shall be construed to be the location of the Greenline.

c. Where the Greenline is indicated as approximately following a lot line, such lot line shall be construed to be the location of the Greenline.

d. With respect to property that is not subdivided, and where the Chico Area Greenline bisects a lot or parcel, the location of the Greenline, unless the same is indicated by dimensions shown upon the Official Chico Area Greenline Map, shall be determined by the use of the scale appearing on the Official Chico Area Greenline Map.

LU-A13.3 Recognize the Chico Area Greenline as the boundary between the "Urban Side of the Chico Area Greenline" and the "Agricultural Side of the Chico Area Greenline."

LU-A13.4 Allow residential land uses on the Agricultural Side of the Chico Area Greenline only within those areas designated for Very Low Density Residential and Rural Residential use on the Official Chico Area Greenline Map shown in Figure LU-7.

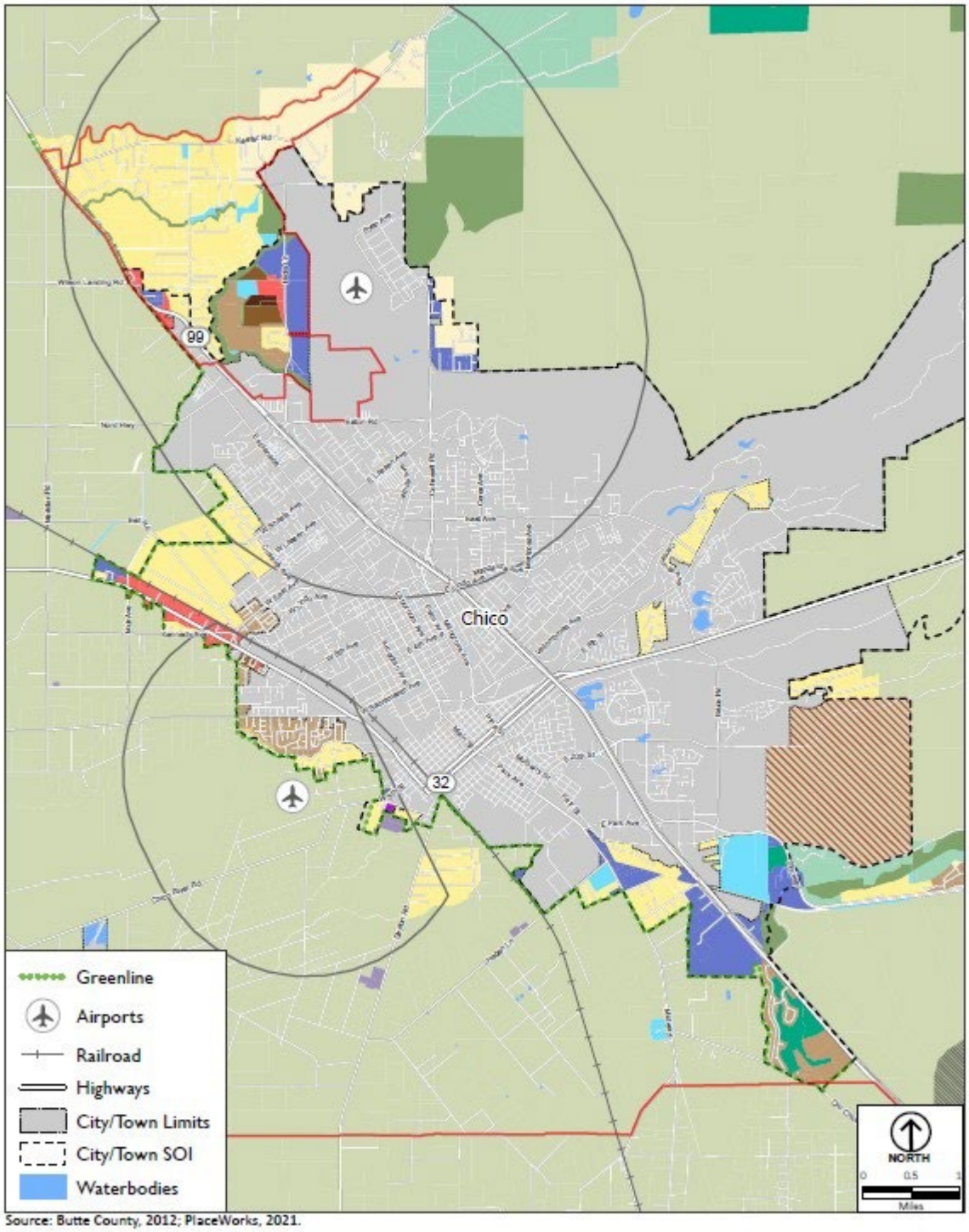
LU-A13.5 Except as provided for in Policy LU-P13.4, require that all land use on the Agricultural Side of the Chico Area Greenline consist solely of agricultural land uses as provided by the "Agriculture" and "Agriculture Services" designations.

LU-A13.6 Guide land uses on the Urban Side of the Chico Area Greenline by the policies of the LAND USE ELEMENT and the applicable urban land use designation as contained in the LAND USE ELEMENT.

LU-A13.7 Conserve and protect for agricultural use the lands in the Chico area that are situated on the Agricultural Side of the Chico Area Greenline.

LU-A13.8 Accommodate future urban and suburban growth that occurs in the Chico area of Butte County on lands situated in the Urban Side of Chico Area Greenline.

FIGURE LU-7 CHICO AREA GREENLINE



Source: Butte County, 2012; PlaceWorks, 2021.

Note: Please see Figure LU-2 for General Plan Land Use Designations Legend

FIGURE LU-7
CHICO AREA GREENLINE

LU-A13.9 The Board of Supervisors may only approve an amendment to the Greenline after the adoption of written findings of fact, supported by substantial evidence in the public record, showing the following:

a. The public benefits of converting the agricultural land to urban land substantially outweigh the public benefits of continued agricultural production.

b. There are no other urban or suburban lands reasonably available and suitable for the proposed development.

LU-A13.10 Nothing in these Chico Area Greenline policies shall prevent an individual at any time from petitioning the Board of Supervisors for a general plan amendment, including a change in the location of the Greenline in accord with the applicable laws and policies of Butte County and the State of California.

Actions

LU-A13.1 To ensure that the land use needs of the Chico area are being met, review and evaluate the location of the Greenline every five years. Any changes or amendments shall be made only upon the findings specified in Policy LU-P13.9.

7. Development Patterns

Goal LU-14 Direct development to existing urbanized areas.

Policies

LU-P14.1 The County shall prevent scattered development patterns and encourage development in existing urbanized areas, and in particular areas that have access to public services and infrastructure.

LU-P14.2 New urban development shall be primarily located in or immediately adjoining already urbanized areas.*

LU-P14.3 The County shall encourage efficient urban infill development within municipal limits, municipal spheres of influence, and existing unincorporated communities where development can readily be served by public infrastructure facilities.

LU-P14.4 The County supports Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) policies outlined in LAFCO's *Operations Manual Policies and Procedures* as a means to limit the expansion of urban services and densities outside of adopted spheres of influence.

8. Area and Neighborhood Plans

Goal LU-15 Uphold the policies and planning areas identified under the separately adopted Durham Dayton Nelson Plan (1992) and Upper Ridge Community Plan (2022).

Policies

LU-P15.1 The Durham Dayton Nelson Plan policies for the corresponding planning area, as shown in Figure LU-2A, are incorporated into General Plan 2040, under Chapter 15, Area and Neighborhood Plans.

LU-P15.2 This General Plan hereby incorporates by reference the policies and actions identified in the Upper Ridge Community Plan for the corresponding planning area, as shown in Figure LU-2A.

Action

LU-A15.1 Update the Watershed Protection Overlay Zone to support the County's housing goals for the Upper Ridge community, as outlined in the Upper Ridge Community Plan, while continuing to work to maintain and improve water quality.

9. Military Operations Areas

Goal LU-16 **Identify, coordinate, and assist in resolving potential land use conflicts within the Military Operations Areas (MOAs) to ensure that new development is compatible with military operations and to safeguard mission training requirements and support military readiness.**

Policies

LU-P16.1 To ensure early notification to the military of proposed discretionary development projects within Military Operations Areas (MOAs,) the County will implement California Government Code Sections 65352 (a)(5) and (6)(A), 65940, and 65944 to facilitate the exchange of project-related information pertinent to military operations within the MOAs.

LU-P16.2 The County will evaluate the potential impact of new structures proposed within the Military Operations Areas (MOAs) shown in Figure LU-4 to ensure the safety of the residents on the ground and continued viability of military operations within the MOAs.

LU-P16.3 The County will utilize the Zoning Ordinance (including but not limited to minor use permits) to require discretionary review of all proposed development projects within the Military Operations Areas (MOAs) shown in Figure LU-4 that may produce height obstructions, glare, smoke, dust, and steam that could impact military operations.

LU-P16.4 The County shall coordinate with the military experts to site new structures in a manner that does not significantly impact military readiness. Issues to be considered include light and glare, heat generation, smoke, dust, equipment testing and operation, personnel training, and flight operations.

5 HOUSING ELEMENT

I. GOALS, POLICIES AND PROGRAMS

This Policy Document presents the goals, policies, and actions that will guide Butte County's efforts in housing production, rehabilitation, and preservation over the next eight-year HOUSING ELEMENT planning period. This document represents the second of two documents that comprise the Butte County HOUSING ELEMENT. The first document, the Housing Needs Assessment, reviews the County's progress in implementing the 2014 HOUSING ELEMENT, and analyzes the current and projected housing needs of the residents of the Unincorporated Area of Butte County. This Policy Document responds to the findings of the Housing Needs Assessment by providing an updated set of policies and actions that are designed to help the County achieve its stated HOUSING ELEMENT goals.

The goals of the Butte County HOUSING ELEMENT update include the following:

- Goal H-1: Provide for the County's regional share of new housing for all income groups and future residents as identified in the Housing Needs Assessment.
- Goal H-2: Encourage the provision of affordable housing in the Unincorporated Area.
- Goal H-3: Partner with property owners to preserve and rehabilitate the existing supply of housing.
- Goal H-4: Collaborate with existing service providers to meet the special housing needs of homeless persons, elderly, large families, disabled persons, and farmworkers.
- Goal H-5: Facilitate rebuilding of communities impacted by wildfires.
- Goal H-6: Ensure equal housing opportunity.
- Goal H-7: Promote energy conservation.

A. Goals, Policies, Actions, and Objectives

Goal H-1 **Provide for the County's regional share of new housing for all income groups and future residents as identified in the Housing Needs Assessment.**

Policies

H-P1.1 Evaluate the impact on the County's regional share of housing when considering General Plan Amendments.

H-P1.2 Focus new development in the unincorporated areas of the spheres of influence of the cities and rebuild development in the sphere of influence of the Town of Paradise to accommodate the County's housing allocation.

H-P1.3 Work to transfer portions of the County's Regional Housing Needs Allocations to incorporated municipalities in conjunction with annexations and when incorporated towns and cities have greater capacity to provide urban services needed by housing.

H-P1.4 Maintain an adequate number and variety of sites to meet the County's Regional Housing Needs Allocation, including sites to meet the rebuild allocation in disaster- impacted communities.

H-P1.5 Promote infill development on appropriate sites in existing neighborhoods and reuse underutilized parcels throughout the Unincorporated Area.

H-P1.6 Ensure that local land use policies updated as part of Butte County General Plan 2040, and any corresponding changes in zoning, are consistent with accommodating the County's regional share of housing for all income groups.

Actions

H-A4.1 **Provide Adequate Sites for Housing by Expanding Infrastructure:** (*Modified from previous Program H-A1.1)* The County shall work with the incorporated municipalities and utility service districts to overcome constraints to water and sewer service for housing, prioritizing improvements for lower-income housing and in low- resource areas to further place-based revitalization efforts, and expand the supply of developable land, particularly for multifamily housing projects within each city's sphere of influence. The County will:

a. Apply for available state and federal funding for water, sewer, and storm drainage improvements.

b. Seek financial assistance of developers in preparing community plans or specific plans that can address public service and facilities for new developments.

c. Coordinate every two years with special districts to assess infrastructure and service needs, establish appropriate financing arrangements to charge reasonable fees on new development to pay for the expansion of water and sewer services within their spheres of influence, and discuss and assist in implementation of necessary expansions.

d. Provide technical assistance to developers interested in establishing community facilities and community service districts to finance needed infrastructure and services where these are financially feasible, including infrastructure expansions to serve residential units in the North Chico and Rio d'Oro specific plans.

e. Work with the Town of Paradise to evaluate the environmental impact of extending sewer service beyond the existing Town boundary.

f. Identify appropriate areas within existing undeveloped, residentially focused specific plans, as well as future specific plans identified under the Butte County General Plan 2030 process, which have not yet been approved.

g. Provide a copy of the adopted HOUSING ELEMENT to all area water and sewer providers serving the unincorporated communities within one month of adoption, in accordance with Government Code Section 65589.7. The bill requires the providers to give priority to proposed housing projects that will include units affordable to lower-income households when capacity is limited.

h. Work with Lake Oroville Area Public Utility District (LOAPUD) identify funding opportunities to design the Las Plumas Area Gravity Sewer Interceptor to provide service to approximately 1,440 new equivalent dwelling units, including new residential units in the Rio d'Oro Specific Plan.

Responsibility: Administrative Office

Funding: Local Early Action Planning (LEAP) Grant funding, Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG), US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development, state Clean Water grants or loans, developer fees

Time Frame: Coordinate with service providers every two years and identify infrastructure constraints by July 2023; conduct infrastructure improvements dependent on grant funding availability. Apply annually for Notices of Funding Availability (NOFAs).

H-A4.2 **Development of Sites for Multifamily Housing:** *(Modified from previous Program H- A1.2)* The County shall provide developers with information about suitable sites for small-scale multifamily projects in unincorporated communities that are closest to employment, transit, and services. The information will be disseminated biannually by the Department of Development Services to developers. In addition, the County shall offer density bonuses, assist interested developers in acquiring surplus government land suitable for multifamily development, and expedite permit processing for housing units affordable to lower-income households. The level of project assistance shall be commensurate with the amount of affordable housing provided as well as the level of affordability. The County shall meet with interested developers on a case-by-case basis to discuss project possibilities, with priority given to developers of projects that would include units affordable to extremely low- income households, accessible ground-level units, and/or provide affordable studio and/or one-bedroom units.

Responsibility: Department of Development Services

Funding: Administrative Overhead

Time Frame: Provide information biannually.

Quantified Objective: 25 lower-income units, 25 units within close proximity to services and other resources in high opportunity areas

H-A4.3 **Negotiate Transfer of a Portion of the County's Regional Housing Need Allocation in Conjunction with Annexations:** *(Modified from previous Program H- A1.3)* If, during the planning cycle, towns or cities plan to annex residential sites that would accommodate a portion of the County's current Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA), the County will work with the affected towns or cities, Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo), and Butte County Association of Governments (BCAG) to transfer an appropriate portion of the County's RHNA to the City, in compliance with Government Code Section 65584.07. Further, during the next regional housing needs determination process, the County shall continue to reach agreements with the incorporated areas that can provide urban services, including transferring a portion of the County's share of the RHNA within existing spheres of influence. In this way, the numbers of housing units assigned to Butte County will be reduced, with the difference being accommodated within the towns or cities.

Responsibility: Department of Development Services

Funding: Administrative Overhead

Time Frame: In conjunction with annexation proceedings and during the next regional housing needs determination process

H-A4.4 **Large-Lot Development and Subdivision:** *(Modified from previous Program H-A1.6)* To facilitate the development of large lots for affordable housing and provide for development phasing for development of 50 to 150 units, the County will give high priority to processing housing developments that include housing for all income levels on lots larger than 10 acres and provide incentives on a case-by-case basis for development of high-density residential on large sites. The County will adopt regulations for development of high-density residential on large sites (such as the North Chico Specific Plan) that will reduce minimum building placement standards to enhance design flexibility and create a more pedestrian-oriented environment. On large sites annexed into incorporated municipalities, the County will work with the jurisdiction prior to annexation to establish development standards, such as is occurring for the North Chico Specific Plan, to ensure future development achieves intended goals.

Further, the County will provide technical assistance and incentives to subdivide parcels in the housing sites inventory larger than 10 acres for projects including affordable housing. The County will offer expedited review for the subdivision of larger sites into buildable lots as long as the development is consistent with County land use and environmental regulations, and priority processing for subdivision maps including affordable housing.

To ensure the program is successful, the County will reach out to developers annually, and as projects are processed, of affordable housing and incorporate necessary strategies such as ministerial lot splits or other incentives.

Responsibility: Department of Development Services

Funding: Administrative Overhead

Time Frame: Ongoing, as projects are processed through the Department of Development Services and incentives will be adopted within one year of adoption of the HOUSING ELEMENT. Annually meet with developers and incorporate and revise strategies at least every two years.

Quantified Objective: 485 lower-income units in an area of concentrated poverty to reduce displacement risk and 416 in a high resource and affluence area to promote housing mobility opportunities.

Goal H-2 Encourage the provision of affordable housing in the Unincorporated Area.

Policies

H-P2.1 Support the development of affordable housing in locations with adequate services and transportation accessibility.

H-P2.2 Work with other public agencies, developers, the incorporated municipalities, and nonprofit housing corporations to make use of state and federal programs for lower- and moderate-income housing, with priority for projects that will include units affordable to extremely low-income households and/or provide affordable studio or one-bedroom units.

H-P2.3 Consistent with state law, provide density bonuses to homebuilders proposing to include a minimum specified percentage of lower- and moderate-income dwelling units within residential developments.

H-P2.4 Ensure that developers and county residents are made aware of key housing programs and development opportunities, and offer County assistance as deemed appropriate for affordable projects.

H-P2.5 Work with employers and housing partners to encourage the production of housing units on either employer-owned sites or other areas adjacent to their job sites.

H-P2.6 Provide technical assistance to agencies and organizations that are involved in the development and construction of housing and/or provide support services.

H-P2.7 Encourage self-help housing as an appropriate means of providing affordable ownership housing.

Actions

H-A2.1 **Development Streamlining:** *(New)* The County will establish a written policy or procedure and other guidance as appropriate to specify the Senate Bill (SB) 35 streamlining approval process and standards for eligible projects, as set forth under California Government Code Section 65913.4. The County will also continue to improve planning permit processing

procedures by improving information retrieval capabilities of counter and project staff, continuing pre-application meetings, applying mandatory time frames for application review, and providing updated written materials, such as checklists and application forms with fee and standards guidelines to developers.

Responsibility: Department of Development Services

Funding: Administrative Overhead

Timeframe: Establish a SB 35 process by December 2023, implement as projects are submitted to the Department of Development Services

Quantified Objective: 20 lower-income units

H-A2.2 **Specific Plans and Large-Scale Residential Developments:** *(Modified from previous Program H-A2.1)* Specific Plans and other large-scale developments can include a range of residential densities and housing types, and therefore have the potential to include affordable housing. Although the County cannot initiate development proposals for large-scale development, through the development agreement process, the County will meet with developers and seek commitments that a percentage of dwelling units be affordable to lower-income households.

Responsibility: Administrative Office, Department of Development Services

Funding: Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) Grant funding, Specific and Master Plans (paid for by developers), Administrative Overhead

Time Frame: Ongoing, annually meet with developers and as development proposals for specific plans and other large-scale development come forward

Quantified Objective: 1,071 lower-income units through the North Chico and Rio d'Oro specific plans

H-A2.3 **Pursue Funding Under State and Federal Programs:** *(Previous Program H-A2.2 continued)* There are several state and federal programs that provide low-cost financing or subsidies for the production and rehabilitation of low- and moderate-income housing. Butte County will pursue available funding under those state and federal programs that require its direct participation, such as CDBG and HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) funds.

Responsibility: Administrative Office

Funding: Administrative Overhead; HOME and other HUD, HCD, and state grants as they become available

Time Frame: Annually apply for CDBG and HOME grants

Quantified Objective: 250 extremely low-income units, 250 very low-income units, and 500 low-income units; 40 percent of these in high opportunity areas, 30 percent in areas of concentrated poverty or low resource.

H-A2.4 **Identify Surplus Government Land for Affordable Housing:** *(Previous Program H- A2.3 continued)* The County's Administrative Office shall provide records on surplus government property to the Department of Development Services. From these records, the Department of Development Services will select suitable housing sites and advertise their availability for low-income housing via a developer Request for Proposals (RFP) process, with preference given for developers who commit to provide units affordable to very low- and extremely low-income households and/or that address identified special needs, such as young adults transitioning from foster care to living independently, seniors, or persons with disabilities.

Responsibility: Administrative Office, Department of Development Services

Funding: Administrative Overhead

Time Frame: Compile list of sites by September 2023, issue RFPs by March 2024, re-issuing annually as needed

H-A2.5 **Work with Incorporated Municipalities**: *(Previous Program H-A2.4 continued)* Thus far, all subsidized housing projects have been built in the incorporated areas of the county where there is easy access to sewer lines as well as services. County staff will work with Chico, Oroville, and Paradise staff to increase the supply of affordable housing in their spheres of influence, including Thermalito and South Oroville, as infrastructure and services are limited in unincorporated areas outside of spheres of influence. The municipalities and County will jointly pursue state or federal funds to subsidize housing in these areas. By working with these municipalities and the Housing Authority of the County of Butte, the County will be able to expand its affordable housing activities, for example, by developing a joint down payment assistance program.

Responsibility: Administrative Office

Funding: Administrative Overhead

Time Frame: Butte County will set up an annual meeting to discuss potential projects, including the North Chico Specific Plan and Rio d'Oro Specific Plan, with the Housing Authority and the cities of Oroville and Chico beginning in 2023. The County will meet with the Town of Paradise beginning in 2023 to discuss rebuild potential.

Quantified Objective: 416 lower-income units within the Chico sphere of influence and 655 lower-income units within the Oroville sphere of influence.

H-A2.6 **Support Affordable Housing Development:** *(New)* The County shall work with housing developers to expand opportunities for affordable lower-income and workforce housing by creating partnerships, providing incentives, and pursuing funding opportunities, with a particular emphasis on developing affordable housing in high resource areas to promote mobility between low and high resource areas, and in affordable rental options in disaster-impacted communities to replace units lost. Specifically, the County shall:

- Provide technical assistance with site identification, site acquisition, and permit processing procedures.
- Promote the use of the density bonus ordinance, application processing fee waivers, impact fee waivers, and fee deferrals to encourage affordable housing, with an emphasis on encouraging affordable housing in high resource areas.
- Facilitate the approval process for land divisions, lot line adjustments, and/or specific plans or master plans resulting in parcel sizes that enable affordable housing development and process fee deferrals related to the subdivision for projects affordable to lower-income households.
- Partner with nonprofit and for-profit affordable housing developers and self- help housing providers to provide technical assistance and support their financing applications for state and federal grant programs, tax-exempt bonds (e.g., Mortgage Revenue Bonds), and other programs that become available.
- Encourage construction of larger housing units with three or more bedrooms, particularly in communities with the highest rates of overcrowding (i.e., Thermalito).

- Develop a targeted program to connect lower-income residents with affordable homeownership and rental opportunities within the county, provide information on this program to realtors and housing providers.
- Annually review and revise fees as necessary to ensure they do not constrain development.

Responsibility: Department of Development Services

Funding: Administrative Overhead, California Housing Finance Agency (CHFA), HOME funds, CDBG funds, Technical Assistance grants

Timeframe: Meet with developers annually, apply for funding annually as available.

Quantified Objective: 100 moderate-income, 100 low-income, 100 very low- income, 25 extremely low-income units. Half of these will be in high resource areas to promote access to services and opportunity, the remainder will be in low-resource areas with a shortage of affordable housing and facilitate rebuilding of affordable rental units lost to wildfires.

H-A2.7 **Update Density Bonus:** *(New)* The County will amend Division 13 of the County Code to comply with changes in California's density bonus law (California Government Code Section 65915, as revised) and will promote the use of density bonuses for lower-income units by providing information through a brochure in County buildings and on the County's website.

Responsibility: Department of Development Services

Funding: Administrative Overhead *Timeframe*: Amend Division 13 by June 2023

Quantified Objective: 30 lower-income units

H-A2.8 **Accessory Dwelling Units:** *(New)* The County shall promote accessory dwelling units as an affordable housing option and an economic mobility opportunity in Butte County through the following actions

- Continue to implement streamlined permit processing for ADUs.
- Seek funding to establish an ADU incentive program that offers homeowners financial assistance for constructing ADUs and placing a deed restriction on the unit for 20 years.
- Provide guidance and educational materials for building ADUs on the County's website and hold at least two public meetings to present the permitting procedures and construction resources, as well as educate the community on ADUs and to increase housing access and affordability. Additionally, the County shall present homeowner associations with the community and neighborhood benefits of accessory dwelling units, inform them that covenants, conditions, and restrictions (CC&Rs) prohibiting ADUs are contrary to State law, and ask homeowner associations to encourage such uses.
- Develop and implement a monitoring program. The program will track ADU approvals and affordability. The County will use this monitoring program to track progress in ADU development and adjust or expand the focus of its education and outreach efforts through the 2022 – 2030 planning period. The County will evaluate ADU production and affordability two years into the planning period (2024) and if it is determined these units are not meeting the lower-income housing need, the County shall ensure other housing sites are available to accommodate the unmet portion of the lower-income RHNA by 2025. If additional sites must be rezoned, they will be consistent with Government Code Sections 65583(f) and 65583.2(h).

Responsibility: Department of Development Services

Funding: Administrative Overhead

Timeframe: Post guidance on the County's website by the end of 2023. Evaluate effectiveness of ADU approvals and affordability by 2024, rezone, if necessary, by 2025, and continue to monitor every two years. Apply for funding in 2023 and biannually thereafter.

Quantified Objective: 21 lower-income accessory dwelling units (ADUs), 36 moderate-income ADUs, and 15 above moderate-income ADUs; promote construction of lower-income units in high resource areas

H-A2.9 **First-Time Homebuyer and Mortgage Credit Certificate (MCC) Programs:** *(New)* Continue to participate in the Golden State Finance Authority's Homebuyer Assistance programs, including first-time homebuyer and Mortgage Credit Certificate (MCC) programs, to provide financial assistance to eligible first-time low- income and moderate-income homebuyers. To reduce displacement risk of prospective homebuyers being priced out of the community, the County will promote the availability of these programs in areas with concentrations of renters, particularly low-income renters, through providing information materials at public buildings and locations and will maintain information on the programs on the County's website.

Responsibility: Administrative Office

Funding: Administrative Overhead, Golden State Finance Authority

Timeframe: Develop informational materials to distribute by May 2023

Quantified Objective: Connect 30 eligible residents with assistance programs to reduce displacement and assist in housing mobility for eligible households

H-A2.10 **Mobile Home Monitoring Program.** *(New)* The County will develop and implement a monitoring program. The program will track mobile homes and manufactured homes approvals and affordability. The County will use this monitoring program to track progress in development. The County will evaluate the production and affordability of mobile homes and manufactured homes two years into the planning period (2024) and if it is determined these units are not meeting the lower-income housing need, the County shall ensure other housing sites are available to accommodate the unmet portion of the lower-income RHNA. If additional sites must be rezoned, they will be consistent with Government Code Sections 65583(f) and 65583.2(h).

Responsibility: Department of Development Services

Funding: Administrative Overhead

Timeframe: Evaluate affordability and approvals by 2024, rezone if necessary. *Quantified Objective:* 50 above moderate-income units, 100 moderate income units, 100 lower income units. Of these, 25 lower income units in areas of high opportunity, and 25 moderate income units in areas of high opportunity.

H-A2.11 **Use of Previous Cycle Sites.** *(New)* Pursuant to Government Code Section 65583.2(c), any non-vacant sites identified in the prior fifth Cycle or vacant sites identified two or more consecutive planning periods, shall be provided by-right development when at least 20 percent of the units in the proposed development are affordable to lower-income households.

Responsibility: Department of Development Services

Funding: Administrative Overhead

Timeframe: Upon adoption of the HOUSING ELEMENT.

Goal H-3 **Partner with property owners to preserve and rehabilitate the existing supply of housing.**

Policies

H-P3.1 Inspect residential buildings and identify code violations.

H-P3.2 Continue to apply, when feasible, for state and federal assistance for housing rehabilitation for low-income households. Require that rental housing that is repaired with government assistance remain affordable to low-income households for a specified period of time.

H-P3.3 Require the abatement or demolition of substandard housing that is not economically feasible to repair.

H-P3.4 Seek the private rehabilitation of substandard dwelling units (as identified through code enforcement) and provide financial assistance, when available, to owners of dwelling units occupied by low-income households. In applying this policy, the County shall seek to avoid the displacement of low-income households.

Actions

H-A3.1 **Code Enforcement and Abatement:** *(Modified from previous Program H-A3.1)* Continue to enforce the Nuisance Abatement Ordinance that authorizes the County to initiate appropriate action against owners of properties with public nuisances, including existing code deficiencies, addressing substandard housing conditions, and the case-by-case removal of dilapidated dwellings. The intent of this program is to eliminate substandard conditions and address areas of concentrated rehabilitation need to reduce displacement risk for occupants. The County will provide brochures in both English and Spanish on the County's website regarding the code enforcement process and available resources to assist with rehabilitation. The County will determine areas in need of prioritized rehabilitation assistance through a housing conditions survey (Program H-A3.2).

Responsibility: Department of Development Services

Funding: General Fund

Time Frame: Make brochures available by July 2023, implement code enforcement process on a proactive basis.

Quantified Objective: Reduce displacement risk and encourage place-based revitalization by facilitating rehabilitation of 25 units by connecting owners with available assistance programs, annually promote available assistance programs in areas of concentrated lower-income households.

H-A3.2 **Rehabilitation of Substandard Dwelling Units:** *(Modified from previous Program H- A3.2)* The County will continue the Housing Rehabilitation Loan Program which provides low to no interest loans to help low- and moderate- income eligible homeowners fix and repair their homes in order to have a safe and healthy place to live. The County will also seek additional funding through the CalHome Program and the CDBG Program to provide weatherization and rehabilitation services for extremely low-, very low-, and low-income households and for single-family, multifamily, and mobile home units. Funding for the Housing Rehabilitation Loan Program and weatherization services will be available to both owner-occupied units and owners of renter-occupied units and marketed through multilingual outreach materials to educate and inform all residents on the available rehabilitation programs and resources. When funding allows, the County will also provide relocation assistance for occupants displaced due to rehabilitation work.

To further the effectiveness of this program, the County will conduct a survey of housing conditions in areas of concentrated poverty and renter-occupied households, such as in Thermalito, to determine the rehabilitation needs by June 2024. Based on the results of this survey, the County will prioritize marketing of rehabilitation assistance programs in areas of the greatest need and will mail information to property owners of units in need of repair.

Responsibility: Department of Development Services, Department of Employment and Social Services, Housing and Homeless Services

Funding: CDBG, HOME, and additional public funds

Time Frame: Annually apply for funds to support existing rehabilitation efforts, conduct housing conditions survey by June 2024.

Quantified Objective: Support place-based revitalization and reduce displacement risk for 80 lower-income households,45 of which in areas of concentrated poverty and reported substandard housing conditions, such as the Thermalito and Palermo areas

H-A3.3 **At-Risk Properties:** *(New)* The County will update its list of subsidized rental properties on an annual basis and identify units at risk of converting to market rate. For complexes or units at risk of converting to market rate, the County shall:

- Contact the owner(s) of any identified at-risk units within one year of affordability expiration to discuss the desire to preserve complexes as affordable.
- Reach out to owner(s) to determine their intent to maintain the affordability of the units' interest in selling the property. In addition, the County will coordinate with owners of expiring subsidies to ensure the required notices to tenants are sent out at 3 years, 12 months, and 6 months.
- Reach out to agencies interested in purchasing and/or managing at-risk units.
- Work with property owners to apply for federal, state, and local subsidies to ensure the continued affordability of at-risk units and maintain a list of non- profit organizations that may be interested in the acquisition/rehabilitation of at-risk units.
- Work with tenants to provide education regarding tenant rights and conversion procedures pursuant to California law.

Responsibility: Department of Employment and Social Services

Funding: Administrative Overhead

Timeframe: Annually monitor and apply for funding as NOFAs are released

Goal H-4 **Collaborate with existing service providers to meet the special housing needs of homeless persons, elderly, large families, disabled persons, and farmworkers.**

Policies

H-P4.1 Provide referrals for housing and services to homeless persons.

H-P4.2 Partner with service providers to accommodate the needs of the homeless population in the Unincorporated Area.

H-P4.3 Encourage transitional housing as a bridge between homeless facilities and independent living.

H-P4.4 Continue to facilitate efforts of individuals, private organizations, and public agencies to provide safe and adequate housing for farmworkers.

H-P4.5 Support appropriate amounts of farmworker and farm family housing in agriculturally zoned areas where it promotes efficiency in the farming operation and has a minimal impact on productive farmland.

H-P4.6 Promote increased housing opportunities for the elderly, large families, young adults exiting the foster care system, and disabled persons.

H-P4.7 Encourage alternative living arrangements for seniors, including market-rate retirement communities and affordable rental housing.

H-P4.8 Encourage developers of rental units to build units for large families, and studio and one-bedroom units to facilitate independent living for persons with mental illness.

H-P4.9 Provide reasonable accommodation for individuals with disabilities to ensure equal access to housing.

Actions

H-A4.1 **Development Standards for Special-Needs Housing:** *(New)* The County will remove barriers to housing for special-needs groups by amending the Zoning Ordinance to address the following:

- **Transitional and Supportive Housing Units:** Allow transitional and supportive housing as a residential use subject only to those restrictions that apply to other residential dwellings of the same type in the same zone and to allow supportive housing as a permitted use without discretionary review in zones where multifamily and mixed-use developments are permitted, including nonresidential zones permitting multifamily uses, in compliance with California Government Code Section 65583(c)(3).
- **Residential Care Facilities.** Allow residential care facilities for seven or more persons only subject to those restrictions that apply to residential uses in the same zone in accordance with the State's definition of family in all residential zones.
- **Low-Barrier Navigation Centers.** Allow low-barrier navigation centers by- right in zones that allow for mixed-use and non-residential zones permitting multifamily uses, in compliance with Government Code Section 65662.
- **Employee and Farmworker Housing.** Treat employee and farmworker housing that serves six or fewer persons as a single-family structure and permit it in the same manner as other single-family structures of the same type within the same zone across all zones that allow single-family residential uses, and employee/farm labor housing consisting of no more than 12 units or 36 beds as an agricultural use and permit it in the same manner as other agricultural uses in the same zone, in compliance with the California Employee Housing Act (Health and Safety Code Sections 17021.5 and 17021.6).

Responsibility: Department of Development Services

Funding: Administrative Overhead

Time Frame: By June 2023

Quantified Objectives: 4 residential care facility units within close proximity to services and other resources in high opportunity areas

H-A4.2 **County Housing Coordination:** *(Previous Program H-A4.1 continued)* The County shall encourage staff in various County departments and outside agencies and organizations to coordinate housing activities by establishing regular collaborative meetings twice per year. Coordination meetings will include staff from the Department of Behavioral Health, the Community Action Agency of Butte County, and the Housing Authority of the County of Butte, among others, to operate Butte County's housing programs. As part of these meetings, the County will continue to work with the Housing Authority and other partners to apply for funding to support construction of public housing, such as the Creekside Place Apartments, Prospect View Apartments, and Oleander Community Housing Apartments, all currently in progress. The County Administrative Office will be charged with gaining an understanding of all of the housing assistance programs to assist special populations, develop a list or brochure, and have that info available on the County's website.

Responsibility: Administrative Office, Department of Behavioral Health

Funding: Administrative Overhead, No Place Like Home Grant funding

Time Frame: Ongoing, hold collaboration meetings twice per year beginning in 2023; develop a list or brochure, and make available on the County's website by June 2023. The Department of Behavioral Health will continue to support developers with funding applications to construct public housing.

H-A4.3 **Funding Program for Accessibility Improvements:** *(Modified from previous Program H-A4.3)* The County shall pursue funding to make accessibility improvements to rental units to be occupied by seniors and persons with disabilities. The intent of this will be to increase the supply of accessible units, thus facilitating housing mobility for persons with disabilities.

Responsibility: Administrative Office

Funding: CDBG and other state and federal funds

Time Frame: Annually apply for funding as NOFAs are released.

Quantified Objective: As funding is available, make accessibility improvements to 10 rental units annually

H-A4.4 **Homeless Task Force:** *(Modified from previous Program H-A4.3)* The County shall increase involvement in the Greater Chico Homeless Task Force to address the needs of the homeless in Butte County and collaborate in providing financial resources to local agencies serving homeless persons. The County will coordinate with service providers to expand availability of services in the Unincorporated Area through a variety of strategies that may include mobile resources in communities with the highest rates of poverty and overpayment, informational materials, and construction of new physical locations for services in or near Magalia and other fire- impacted communities.

Further, the County will continue to work with developers of Everhart Village to provide 20 individual tiny homes with community supportive services for persons experiencing or at risk of homelessness and will continue to work with the City of Chico for the addition of 177 pallet shelters to serve homeless residents in Butte County and Chico. Additionally, the County will support developers interested in reusing vacant structures for emergency shelters, where appropriate, by providing assistance with identifying available structures as needed.

Responsibility: Department of Behavioral Health, and Department of Social Services
Funding: Administrative Overhead; annual funding for the Homeless Task Force's Emergency Housing Assistance Program (EHAP)

Time Frame: Continue annual funding for the Homeless Task Force

Quantified Objective: Provide services for at least 200 homeless individuals through Everhart Village and pallet shelters, as well as through additional needs identifies as part of the County's involvement in the Greater Chico Homeless Task Force

H-A4.5 **Homeless Services:** *(Modified from previous Program H-A4.4)* The County shall take the following steps to assess need for homeless services and improve access to services:

- The Butte County Office of Education and Butte County Behavioral Health and the Butte County Department of Employment and Social Services shall continue to participate in the annual Butte County Continuum of Care Point in Time Homeless County Report.
- Amend the Zoning Ordinance to allow sufficient parking to accommodate all staff working in emergency shelters, in compliance with Government Code Section 65583(a)(4)(A)(ii).

Responsibility: Office of Education and Behavioral Health, Department of Development Services, Department of Employment and Social Services

Funding: Administrative Overhead

Time Frame: Conduct point-in-time count annually, beginning in January 2023; amend the zoning ordinance by June 2023.

H-A4.6 **Support Funding for Farmworker Housing:** *(Previous Program H-A4.5 continued)* The County shall continue to provide technical support and offer incentives to developers who wish to complete applications for funding for farmworker housing, including the Housing and Community Development Department's Joe Serna Jr. Farmworker Housing Grant Program. Incentives may include expedited permit processing, plan checking, and inspections. County staff will continue to coordinate with interested developers on a project-by-project basis to streamline the permitting process and reduce barriers to development. The County will also annually reach out to developers to provide information on available funding opportunities and information on sites suitable for farmworker housing.

Responsibility: Department of Development Services

Funding: Administrative Overhead

Time Frame: County staff will meet with farmworker housing developers and advocates on a biannual basis to discuss their needs and offer assistance in the form of letters of recommendation for grant applications, assistance with site identification and grant opportunities, and discuss incentives for constructing farmworker housing.

Quantified Objective: 40 lower-income units in areas of concentrated need for farmworkers, including near the City of Gridley

H-A4.7 **Rehabilitation of Existing Farmworker Housing:** *(Modified from previous Program H-A4.6)* The County will continue to support the efforts of the Housing Authority of the County of Butte to rehabilitate any existing farm worker housing facilities, including providing expedited permit processing, plan checking, and inspections. The County will also assist the Housing Authority in the event that it requires County assistance in pursuing grant funding or other financial assistance. To further promote affordable development, the County will increase the allowable density on this parcel to at least 20 dwelling units per acre, in line with development intentions of the Housing Authority.

Responsibility: Department of Development Services

Funding: Administrative Overhead

Time Frame: Ongoing assistance as requested by Housing Authority. The County can offer assistance in the form of letters of recommendation for grant applications for funding on an annual basis. Increase the allowable density on the parcel by June 2025.

Quantified Objective: Rehabilitation of 130 farmworker units to reduce displacement risk and facilitate place-based revitalization

H-A4.8 **Farmworker Preference in New Affordable Housing:** *(Program H-A4.7 continued)* For new affordable housing projects developed with County assistance, incentives, and/or subject to County requirements, the County will require that the developer give qualified farmworker households a preference for 15 percent of the new units. Should demand from farmworker households be insufficient to fill the set-aside units, then the units will be made available to other qualified households. The County will annually reach out to affordable housing developers to gather interest and input on how to best implement this program and will provide information on available funding.

Responsibility: Department of Development Services

Funding: Administrative Overhead, CDBG, HOME, USDA Rural Development, development agreements for major projects

Time Frame: Ongoing, as projects are processed through the Planning Division and Department of Development Services; annually reach out to developers and determine next steps within 6 months.

Quantified Objective: 100 lower-income units for farmworkers, or other qualified households, to reduce displacement risk

H-A4.9 **Extremely Low-Income Households:** *(Modified from previous Program H-A4.8)* The County will encourage the development of housing for extremely low-income households through a variety of activities, such as coordinating with potential housing developers every 12 to 18 months, providing financial assistance (when feasible) or in-kind technical assistance or land write-downs, providing expedited processing, identifying grant and funding opportunities, applying for or supporting applications for funding on an ongoing basis, considering local funding, and/or offering additional incentives beyond the density bonus.

Responsibility: Department of Development Services

Funding: Administrative Overhead, CDBG, HOME, USDA Rural Development *Time Frame*: Ongoing; at least annually monitor NOFAs and identify opportunities to apply to at least every other year, as projects are processed through the Planning Division and Department of Development Services, and annual outreach with local developers

Quantified Objective: Support the development of at least 136 extremely low-income units

H-A4.10 **Persons with Disabilities:** *(Modified from previous Program H-A4.9)* To ensure that persons with disabilities, including developmental disabilities, have increased access/placement in residential units, the County will do the following:

- Meet with the Far Northern Regional Center by March 2023 to implement an outreach program that informs families within the county of housing and services available for persons with developmental disabilities. The program could include the development of an informational brochure, including information on services on the County's website, and providing housing-related training for individuals/families through workshops.
- Continue to ensure new developments are compliant with standards outlined in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) for persons with disabilities.

- Encourage "universal design" features, such as level entries, larger bathrooms, and lower kitchen countertops to accommodate persons with disabilities.
- Encourage multifamily housing developers to designate accessible and/or adaptable units to be affordable to persons with disabilities or persons with special needs, similar to the Walker Commons model in Chico.
- Review and revise the County's findings for approving reasonable accommodation requests, including, but not limited to, potential impact on surrounding uses, physical attributes of the property and structures, and any other findings that may be potential barriers to housing for persons with disabilities.
- Review the County's Zoning Ordinance, revising as necessary, to remove barriers to construction and operation of boarding houses for persons with mental illnesses.

Responsibility: Department of Development Services

Funding: Administrative Overhead

Time Frame: Development of outreach program by December 2023; review and revise the County's findings for reasonable accommodations by June 2024, encourage accessibility elements as projects are proposed and processed.

Quantified Objective: 50 units accessible to persons with disabilities and 30 accessible and supportive units for persons with developmental disabilities or suffering from mental illnesses

Goal H-5 Facilitate rebuilding of communities impacted by wildfires.

Policies

H-P5.1 Continue to streamline review and approval of reconstruction of housing in communities impacted by wildfires.

H-P5.2 Identify opportunities for property owners to voluntarily transfer development rights from high and very high fire hazard zones to safer, infill areas in areas with lower fire hazard.

H-P5.3 Streamline permitting process for residential building permits in fire-impacted areas.

Actions

H-A5.1 **Rebuild Assistance:** *(New)* To ensure that housing rebuilt in communities impacted by, and at risk of, wildfires will serve a range of incomes and special-needs groups, the County will complete the following actions:

- Continue the CalHome Disaster Assistance Housing Rehabilitation Loan Program to help facilitate reconstruction and/or rehabilitation of single-family homes owned and occupied by low- and moderate- income households and to provide financial assistance to eligible households in the form of gap financing to complete repair or reconstruction of homes after insurance proceeds or other financing provided for repair or reconstruction have been applied. The County will continue to apply annually as NOFAs are released.
- Continue the federal Community Development Block Grant- Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funding program to finance rental housing. The goal of the CDBG-DR fund is to produce new rental housing units affordable to low- and moderate- income households and provide housing for displaced individuals, and individuals who became homeless, as a result of the Camp Fire. The County will continue to apply annually as NOFAs are released.

- Work with companies exploring 3-D printed homes to pilot these units as an affordable development opportunity and non-wood housing option in high fire hazard areas by 2026, or sooner if technology is available.
- Identify suitable sites for medium-density residential uses in unincorporated communities to facilitate construction of affordable housing and smaller units for seniors and other small households.
- Provide financial assistance to owners of mobile home parks and individual mobile homes destroyed by wildfires to rebuild units of the same type in unincorporated areas.

Responsibility: Department of Development Services

Funding: Administrative Overhead, CDBG, CDBG-DR CalHome Disaster Assistance funding and other state and federal funding

Timeframe: Refer to individual bullets for specific timeframes.

Quantified Objective: 200 lower-income units in fire-impacted communities to support housing mobility

H-A5.2 **Emergency Energy Source Assistance:** *(New)* Several stakeholders and community members identified the cost of generators and other alternative energy sources for emergency situations as a barrier to mobility for lower-income households to live in areas with fire risk. To address this concern, the County will include a page on the County's website with information on Pacific Gas and Electric Company's (PG&E's) Generator and Battery Rebate Program for eligible households. The intent of these programs will be to reduce barriers to housing access for lower-income households. The County will reach target households by posting information on the County website and social media platforms, sending emails with information to County listservs, and publishing information annually, prior to fire seasons, in community newsletters or newspapers.

Responsibility: Administrative Office, Department of Development Services

Funding: Administrative Overhead, grant funding

Timeframe: Update the County's website with PG&E information by February 2023 and apply for funding annually as NOFAs are released.

Quantified Objective: Connect at least 25 lower-income households with financial assistance for emergency energy sources, such as generators, to reduce displacement risk due to power outages.

H-A5.3 **Fire Risk Reduction:** *(New)* To reduce displacement risk due to environmental disasters such as wildfires, the County will maintain information on organizations and programs that are available to landowners to assist in meeting defensible space goals and taking other steps that may decrease flood and fire insurance rates. These programs may include the National Fire Protection Association's Firewise USA program and CalFire's Landowners Assistance and wildfire preparedness informational tools. Provide links to these resources on the County's website. The County will reach households by posting information on the County website and social media platforms, sending emails with information to County listservs, and publishing information annually, prior to fire seasons, in community newsletters or newspapers.

Responsibility: Department of Development Services

Funding: Administrative Overhead

Timeframe: By the end of 2024

Quantified Objective: Connect at least 30 residents with fire risk reduction assistance programs to preserve existing units

Goal H-6 Ensure equal housing opportunity.

Policies

H-P6.1 Continue to promote housing opportunities for all persons regardless of age, race, religion, gender, marital status, national origin, disability, or other barriers that prevent choice in housing.

H-P6.2 Continue to work with other public and local private organizations to provide referral services to individuals with housing discrimination complaints and to remedy instances of housing discrimination.

Actions

H-A6.1 **Improve Low Resource Areas Access to Opportunities:** *(New)* The County shall take the following actions to improve access to opportunity in low resource areas

- Meet with school districts within two years of HOUSING ELEMENT adoption to (1) determine if a rural teacher incentive program is necessary to attract and retain high-quality teachers to poorly ranked schools and (2) what, if any, outside factors impede student performance that can be alleviated, such as stable housing opportunities, childcare opportunities for working parents, and more. If such a need for such a program or specific issues are identified, the County will pursue solutions, which may include:
  - Reviewing the Zoning Ordinance to ensure childcare facilities are permitted in close proximity to schools and employment centers;
  - Meeting with developers to identify sites suitable for housing affordable
  - on a teacher's salary;
  - Facilitating coordination between school districts and transit agencies to increase the availability of bussing and transportation, as needed, for students to/from school, childcare, or athletic events;
  - Developing a program to assist school districts in training classroom aides through the Health and Human Services Agency programs such as CalWorks; and
  - Supporting school applications for grants that may be used for teacher recruitment and retention bonuses, providing classroom materials, and other similar incentives to attract high-quality teachers.
- Promote CalWorks in rural areas of the unincorporated County to improve access to employment training, assistance, and job opportunities. The County will develop strategies to expand the effectiveness of employee training programs for lower-income residents and special-needs groups, particularly in rural areas, which may include:
  - Reviewing the Zoning Ordinance to alleviate constraints on small business establishment so interested residents in rural areas are able to secure home occupation permits;
  - Meet with local employee training programs, such as the Alliance for Workforce Development (AFWD) and The Training Place at Butte College at least once by

December 2024 to identify opportunities to provide pop-up events in remote communities to connect residents with resources and training.

- Meet annually with Butte Regional Transit to determine if transit demand is met by existing routes and frequency. If needed, assist in applying for additional funding to expand transit options in the Unincorporated Area to services including employment, medical, and recreational opportunities.
- Review the Zoning Ordinance to identify and remove any barriers to creation of community gardens in all unincorporated communities by June 2023.
- Meet with medical service providers by December 2024 to identify strategies to expand capacity in unincorporated areas through new clinics or popup service events. Support efforts to pursue funding to facilitate expansions.

Responsibility: Department of Development Services, Administrative Office

Funding: Administrative Overhead, grant funding

Time Frame: Refer to each bulleted action for specific timeframes.

H-A6.2 **Housing Choice Vouchers:** *(New)* Continue to administer the Housing Choice Voucher Program (formerly Section 8) through the Housing Authority of the County of Butte. Provide assistance for low-income families that use Housing Choice Vouchers to identify housing opportunities in areas of high opportunity and close proximity to resources to improve opportunities for mobility between low and high resource areas. To increase the availability of rental opportunities for low-income residents, the County will meet with the Housing Authority to identify strategies to incentivize landlords to market their units to voucher holders, promoting the incentives, particularly in high resource areas.

Responsibility: Department of Employment and Social Services

Funding: HUD Housing Choice Voucher Funds, Administrative Overhead

Time Frame: Ongoing, meet with the Housing Authority to identify strategies by September 2023

Quantified Objective: Incentivize housing providers to market 20 new units as available to Housing Choice Voucher holders

H-A6.3 **Fair Housing Outreach and Education:** *(Modified from previous Program H-A5.1)* The County will further fair housing through accessible outreach efforts and community education by:

- By July 2023, provide links to Legal Services of Northern California's (LSNC's) services on the County's website. Refer all fair housing complaints or inquiries received by County staff to LSNC on an ongoing basis.
- Contract LSNC to provide a biannual, by March 2024, training to mortgage lenders, landlords, property managers, and other housing providers on fair housing laws and to distribute information on tenant and landlord rights and responsibilities at County buildings and other public locations.
- Ensure all public outreach materials are accessible for all persons, including translation and dictation, where needed, by June 2023. The County will notice the availability of the draft HOUSING ELEMENT in Hmong with the assistance of the Hmong Community Center or other translation service providers.

Responsibility: Administrative Office

Funding: Administrative Overhead

Time Frame: Refer to individual bullets for specific time frames

Quantified Objective: Assist 10 residents annually through legal services, educate at least 10 housing providers biannually on fair housing laws, and distribute information on available translation services for each public meeting or event.

Goal H-7 Promote energy conservation.

Policies

H-P7.1 Continue to implement state energy-efficiency standards.

H-P7.2 Provide energy conservation assistance to low-income households.

Actions

H-A7.1 **Building Code Standards:** *(Modified from previous Program H-A6.1)* As new uniform codes are adopted every three years by the California Building Standards Commission, the County will review and revise its building code for current compliance and adopt necessary revisions to further local development objectives.

Responsibility: Department of Development Services

Funding: Administrative Overhead

Time Frame: Review and update the County's building codes as new and updated codes are adopted by the State of California

H-A7.2 **Energy Conservation Assistance:** *(Modified from previous Program H-A6.2)* Substantial energy conservation and reduced utility payments can be realized from weatherizing and insulating older dwelling units. Many lower-income households and owners of rental units lack the financial resources, however, to undertake such home improvements. There are several programs that can provide financial assistance to lower-income homeowners and rental unit owners whose tenants are lower-income. The County will promote energy efficiency and financial assistance programs through links on the County's website and informational brochures. In addition, the County shall collect information from program participants on an annual basis regarding the number of households assisted with weatherization assistance.

Additionally, the County has set goals to address and support positive environmental change, including, but not limited to:

- Promote safe and healthy homes by exploring a policy or ordinance establishing multi-unit housing as 100 percent smoke-free spaces.
- Encourage energy-efficient development.

Responsibility: Administrative Office

Funding: Administrative Overhead, CDBG, HOME

Time Frame: Make information available on the County's website and in brochures in public buildings by May 2023 and implement as applications for new construction and rehabilitation are received.

Quantified Objective: Direct 10 lower-income households annually toward programs of other agencies that provide financial assistance to improve the energy efficiency of their dwelling units.

B. Quantified Objectives

Quantified objectives estimate the number of units likely to be constructed, rehabilitated, or conserved/preserved by income level during the planning period. The quantified objectives do not set a ceiling on development; rather, they set a target goal for the County to achieve based on needs, resources, and constraints. Each quantified objective is detailed by income level, as shown in **Table A-1**.

TABLE A-1: QUANTIFIED OBJECTIVES FOR BUTTE COUNTY PROGRAMS, 2022-2030

Action	Extremely Low[1]	Very Low[1]	Low[1]	Moderate[1,2]	Above Moderate[1,2]
RHNA	**136**	**136**	**361**	**998**	**2,157**
New Construction					
Program H-A1.2	5	20	25		
Program H-A1.43	200	350	521		
Program H-A2.1	5	5	10		
Program H-A2.3	250	250	500		
Program H-A2.6	25	100	100	100	
Program H-A2.7	5	10	15		
Program H-A2.8	5	5	11	36	15
Program H-A2.9			15	15	
Program H-A2.10	25	25	50	100	50
Program H-A4.6	10	15	15		
Program H-A4.8	20	40	40		
Program H-A4.9	136				
Program H-A4.10	10	20	20	30	
Program H-A5.1	50	50	100		
Rehabilitation					
Program H-A3.1		5	10	10	
Program H-A3.2	10	35	35		
Program H-A4.7	30	50	50		
Conservation					
Program H-A4.3		16	32	32	
Program H-A4.4	200				
Program H-A5.3	5	5	10	10	
Program H-A6.3		10	10		

Source: Butte County, 2022 Notes:

1. *In some cases, quantified objectives overlap and therefore identify multiple strategies to achieve the RHNA.*
2. *Moderate- and above moderate-income unit capacity is anticipated to be met by market development trends.*
3. *Programs H-A2.2 and H-A2.5 account for specific plan units as well and are therefore not included here to avoid duplication.*

6 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ELEMENT



Agricultural products and processing have long been central to Butte County's economy. Photo courtesy of the Butte County Department of Development Services.

Butte County, along with its rural character, has a strong economy based in its agricultural, commercial, industrial, educational, and professional industries. The County encourages economic development in these industries, and the development and enrichment of new industries that are job creating and environmentally sustainable.

The purpose of this Economic Development Element is to identify, protect, and enhance economic development in Butte County. This Element includes goals, policies, and actions to guide decision making that concerns the future of economic development in the county, and to ensure a high quality of life for Butte County residents.

This Element is organized into two sections:

- **Background Information.** Provides a brief overview of the existing economic setting in Butte County. An expanded discussion about economic development in Butte County is available in Chapters 2 (Population, Housing and Employment), 3 (Economics), and 18 (Agriculture) of the Butte County General Plan 2030 Setting and Trends Report.
- **Goals, Policies and Actions.** Provides additional guidance to the County related to decisions on economic development.

A. Background Information

This section provides an overview of the economic setting in Butte County, including employment trends, economic sectors by major employers, and fiscal conditions.

1. Employment Trends

a. Total Employment

The number of jobs in the unincorporated area of Butte County increased from 10,700 jobs in 2003 to 14,000 in 2018 (the most recent year for which data are available). This 31 percent increase in jobs in the local economy exceeds the 22 percent increase countywide (i.e., including the incorporated municipalities) and 25 percent increase statewide. The unincorporated area has far fewer jobs per household (0.44), compared to countywide (0.89) and statewide (1.31). However, the more rapid growth of jobs in the unincorporated area translated into a larger increase in jobs per household from 2003 to 2018, a 49 percent increase in the unincorporated area compared to a countywide increase of 10 percent and a statewide increase of 12 percent.

b. Employment by Economic Sectors

Table ED-1 provides percent changes in the number of employed persons by industry countywide for each 5-year interval between 2001 and 2021 and in the 20-year period overall. All industries show some fluctuations across the two decades, though Education and Health Services reported only minor job losses (6 percent) in a single period (2016-2021), signaling relative stability. Growth in Education and Health Services jobs over the 20-year period (44 percent) was exceed by only one other sector, Mining, Logging and Construction (45 percent), which experienced significant declines between 2006 and 2011, likely due to the impact of the 2008/09 recession and reduced demand for timber, but otherwise experienced significant growth in each other five-year interval.

TABLE ED-1 BUTTE COUNTY EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY (COUNTYWIDE), 2001–2021

Butte County	Change 2001-2006	Change 2006-2011	Change 2011-2016	Change 2016-2021	Change 2001-2021
Farm	-7%	8%	15%	-3%	11%
Mining, Logging, and Construction	45%	-45%	57%	17%	45%
Manufacturing	-11%	-8%	16%	-5%	-9%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	7%	-14%	13%	3%	7%
Information	-7%	-15%	-9%	-40%	-57%
Financial Activities	-18%	-6%	20%	-22%	-28%
Professional & Business Services	-9%	-12%	14%	-5%	-14%
Educational & Health Services	20%	5%	21%	-6%	44%
Leisure & Hospitality	5%	-6%	19%	-6%	11%
Other Services	0%	3%	3%	-18%	-14%
Government	5%	-10%	4%	-10%	-11%
Total All Industries	**5%**	**-8%**	**14%**	**-6%**	**4%**

Source: California Employment Development Department, 2022.

2. Agriculture and Timber Production

Butte County has historically been known as an agricultural county, and agriculture has a major influence on the Butte County landscape and its economy. According to the Butte County 2019 Crop & Livestock Report (hereafter, Crop & Livestock Report), published by the Butte County Agricultural Commissioner, just under 425,670 acres of land were harvested in Butte County in 2019, representing 41 percent of the county's total land area. Although harvested acreage fluctuates from year to year, the total in Butte County has remained relatively stable over the last five years, with 420,011 acres harvested in 2015. Field crops made up the majority of 2019 acreage with 310,582 acres, followed by fruit and nut crops with 108,113 acres. Of all crops, rice accounted for the most total acreage, with nearly 96,780 bearing acres, followed by walnuts (56,312 bearing acres) and almonds (39,025 bearing acres).

Data published in the Crop & Livestock Report indicate that in 2019, the value of countywide agricultural and timber production was $688 million, down from $773 million in 2015, despite an increase in total crop acreage. Over the four-year span, some crops increased in value per acre, but significant crop value declines were experienced by fruit and nut crops (down 27 percent per acre) and timber (down 39 percent overall—timber acreage is not available). The value of harvested timber and timber products declined in the 1990s and into the early 2000s. Since 2003, the value has leveled off, although there is volatility from one year to the next. There was an increase in the run-up to the 2008/09 recession, a subsequent decline, and then a recovery. Nevertheless, the value of timber sales from 2003 through 2018 averaged $17.3 million a year, 68 percent less than the annual average from 1994 to 2000, when adjusted for inflation. This represents a significant decrease in economic activity in the eastern part of the county since the 1990s, but it had been somewhat consistent since 2003.

3. Fiscal Health

The COVID-19 pandemic has upended local government finance across the country, especially in counties, which are responsible for public health and have custodial responsibilities for jail populations. For Butte County, there are the added responsibilities of recovery and rebuilding in the aftermath of the Camp and North Complex fires.

Development under the General Plan has fiscal implications for the County that vary significantly based on location. For example, development that occurs within a Tax Rate Area (TRA) that allocates a larger than average share of the basic property tax to the County will generate more revenues than the same development that is built within a TRA that allocates an average or smaller share of the basic property tax to the County. Service costs can also vary based on location. For example, if 3,000 new residential units were built within a rural community in the unincorporated portion of the county and the existing Sheriff service standard is insufficient to meet the demand from new development, the County would need to adjust service standards for the entire community, not just the new residential units. This could lead to disproportionately high costs of providing Sheriff services to the community. On the other hand, if new residential units were scattered about the rural portion of the county, such development could lead to inefficiencies in service delivery.

When contemplating development within the unincorporated areas, certain types of development will be more fiscally advantageous to the County's fiscal health than others. Initially, it appears that commercial and industrial development will be most beneficial to the County budget because it will generate a full range of revenues; however, without a residential population component, demand for costly County services in the Health and Human Services and Public Protection areas will be low.

On a more global scale, the County also faces fiscal issues related to development that occurs within both the unincorporated and incorporated portions of the county. The County Board of Supervisors has discretion over how to spend a relatively small portion of its budget, and restrictions imposed by outside funding sources dictate how most of the budget is spent. This has important implications for the County as it considers the impacts of growth over the General Plan horizon.

B. Goals, Policies and Actions

Goal ED-1 **Improve the local economy by diversifying the economy, reducing the unemployment rate, increasing business revenues to the County, and increasing wages.**

Policies

ED-P1.1 The County's priority for future growth is creating sustainable jobs and providing a living wage to families to reduce poverty.

ED-P1.2 The County shall encourage a full range of commercial services at the regional, community and neighborhood levels.

ED-P1.3 The County shall encourage a full range of recreational and tourism uses at Oroville Dam and Lake.

ED-P1.4 Products and services for County operations should be purchased from Butte County locally-owned businesses whenever possible.

ED-P1.5 The County supports education and job training for those county residents currently employed, dislocated, or unemployed in order to enhance existing skill levels and provide for job advancement, and supports removal of impediments to gainful employment for county residents.

Actions

ED-A1.1 Maintain a Regional Economic Development Strategy with the goals of growing existing businesses, ensuring Butte County is a competitive location for new investment, creating a sustainable business friendly reputation for the county, and improving the coordination of regional economic development resources and efforts.

ED-A1.2 Create a countywide strategy to support the local manufacturing, office, and commercial sectors by improving infrastructure that supports manufacturing, office and commercial development, and promotes airport, highway, and rail development.

ED-A1.3 Work with the five incorporated municipalities and economic development entities to jointly develop and maintain a countywide inventory of available industrial and commercial land and buildings.

ED-A1.4 Establish a program for regional coordination of economic development to: focus on jobs creation and expansion; establish written agreements with local jurisdictions, economic development corporations and chambers of commerce; and maintain organizational ties to the Board of Supervisors.

ED-A1.5 Coordinate with job training programs and organizations to tailor job training programs for county residents to match locally available jobs within the county.

Goal ED-2 **Promote and support the local agricultural economic sector.**

Policies

ED-P2.1 The County shall create and support opportunities to promote and market agricultural products grown or processed within Butte County (such as a Farmers' Market).

ED-P2.2 The County shall encourage development of food processing and other facilities that could support production of "value-added" agriculture products from Butte County.

ED-P2.3 The County shall promote agritourism, such as through special events and themed "farm trails" and routes within Butte County's agricultural areas.

ED-P2.4 The County will support a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program if one is developed.

ED-P2.5 The County supports existing grower cooperatives in Butte County.

ED-P2.6 The County supports programs and projects that would help Butte County farmers provide carbon offsets, if and when new regulations require industries to provide carbon offsets.

ED-P2.7 The County supports programs and projects that utilize agricultural by-products for "green" building material production and/or renewable energy production, such as using straw bales for building or converting rice straw to bio-fuels.

Actions

ED-A2.1 Review and update the list of sites suitable for the development of a regionally focused agricultural center.

ED-A2.2 Include agricultural marketing in the Countywide Economic Strategy to coordinate private and public initiatives and integrate them with County business attraction efforts.

ED-A2.3 Support opportunities to promote agricultural products that are grown or processed in Butte County and including support for "brand recognition" for these products.

Goal ED-3 Improve the County's fiscal health.

Policies

ED-P3.1 The County shall utilize developer agreements as a tool to implement public facilities financing plans and to secure various benefits from significant new development projects.

ED-P3.2 Projects that are consistent with the General Plan land use designation and are located in areas where the County receives above-average property tax share, relative to property tax shares that the County receives elsewhere in the unincorporated area, shall receive priority through a permit streamlining process.

ED-P3.3 Major mixed use development projects shall develop non- residential uses concurrent with housing so that revenue- and job- generating uses do not appreciably lag residential development. Each phase of housing shall be accompanied by balanced revenue- and job-generating development.

ED-P3.4 Reductions and exceptions to development impact fees shall be allowed only when an applicant can demonstrate that the reduction will result in a clear economic development benefit to the County. If the County elects to charge impact fees that are less than what is necessary to completely fund new development's share of projected countywide costs, County resources to "backfill" the foregone revenues shall be clearly identified and committed so that the impact fee program remains "whole."

ED-P3.5 When County redevelopment project areas generate tax increment funds, these funds shall be used to pay for existing development's share of public improvement costs when other financing options do not exist.

ED-P3.6 Formation of Redevelopment Project Areas or Infrastructure Financing Districts shall be explored where such mechanisms can provide financing tools to help pay for existing development's share of new public improvement costs.

Actions

ED-A3.1 Coordinate with each municipality whereby the municipalities would adopt impact fees benefitting the County for all new development in their jurisdiction that generates demand for Countywide services. At a minimum, this coordination shall take place for new annexation proceedings.

7 AGRICULTURE ELEMENT



An almond orchard in northwestern Butte County. Photo courtesy of the Butte County Department of Development Services.

Butte County is a major producer of a wide variety of farm products. Agriculture is important not only to Butte County's economy, but also to its way of life. General Plan 2030 recognizes the central role agriculture plays in the physical, economic and cultural character of Butte County.

California as a whole leads the nation in agricultural production, with California crops valued at over $38 billion annually. More than three-fifths of that value comes from the 19 counties that make-up the Great Central Valley of California, including Butte County. California agriculture is a strategic asset providing one of the fundamental needs of society: a safe, secure and affordable food supply.[1]

The Agriculture Element provides information about agricultural resources and uses in Butte County. This Element contains goals, policies and actions designed to protect, maintain, promote and enhance agriculture. Background information for this Element is based on information in the Butte County General Plan 2030 Setting and Trends Report.

This Element is organized into two sections as follows:

- **Background Information.** Provides a brief overview of the existing agricultural lands, uses and trends in Butte County. An expanded discussion about agriculture in Butte County is available in Chapter 18 (Agriculture) of the Butte County General Plan 2030 Setting and Trends Report.
- **Goals, Policies and Actions.** Provides guidance for decisions that affect the continuing practice of agriculture in Butte County.

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[1] *Assessing the Region Via Indicators: The Economy* (Third Edition, October 2009), The Great Valley Center, available at: http://www.greatvalley.org/artman2/publish/publications/pub_Assessing_the_Region_via_Indicators_The_Economy_third_edition.aspx, accessed March 16, 2010.

A. Background Information

The western half of Butte County is located in the Sacramento Valley, a vast, flat floodplain that is one of the best agricultural areas in the world. Within the county, agriculture is the largest land use, with the majority of farmland aggregated in the flat, western, rural areas of the county. The farming environment in Butte County is rich with high quality soils that, together with the temperate Mediterranean climate, support a variety of crops, including fruits and nuts, field, seed and vegetable crops. Other agricultural goods, such as livestock, apiary, nursery plants and timber, are also produced in Butte County. The three most land-intensive crops in the county are rice, almonds and English walnuts, which together account for over one-third of the County's total agricultural acreage.[2]

According to the California Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP), there were over 649,000 acres of land suited for agriculture and grazing in Butte County in 2006.[3] FMMP identifies four classes of farmland in Butte County: Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, Unique Farmland and Grazing Land. As shown in Figure AG-1, the majority of the county's farmland is classified as Prime Farmland, located in the alluvial plain of the Sacramento Valley in the western portion of the county, and Grazing Land, located in the mountain and foothill regions.



Agricultural land in Butte County. Photo courtesy of the Butte County Department of Development Services.

The California Land Conservation Act, better known as the Williamson Act, works to conserve agricultural and open space lands through restrictive use contracts administered by counties and cities under State regulations. Private landowners voluntarily restrict their land to agricultural and compatible open space uses under minimum 10-year rolling term contracts, with counties and cities also acting voluntarily. In return, the property tax on a Williamson Act parcel is assessed at a rate consistent with its actual use, rather than potential market value.[4] Butte County has participated in the Williamson Act since 1967.[5] In 2007, the most recent year for which data is available, approximately 216,000 acres were enrolled in Williamson Act contracts.[6] Therefore, the Williamson Act currently protects 33 percent of the county's agricultural land. Figure AG-2 shows the location of all Williamson Act lands in the county.

FIGURE AG-1 AGRICULTURAL LAND

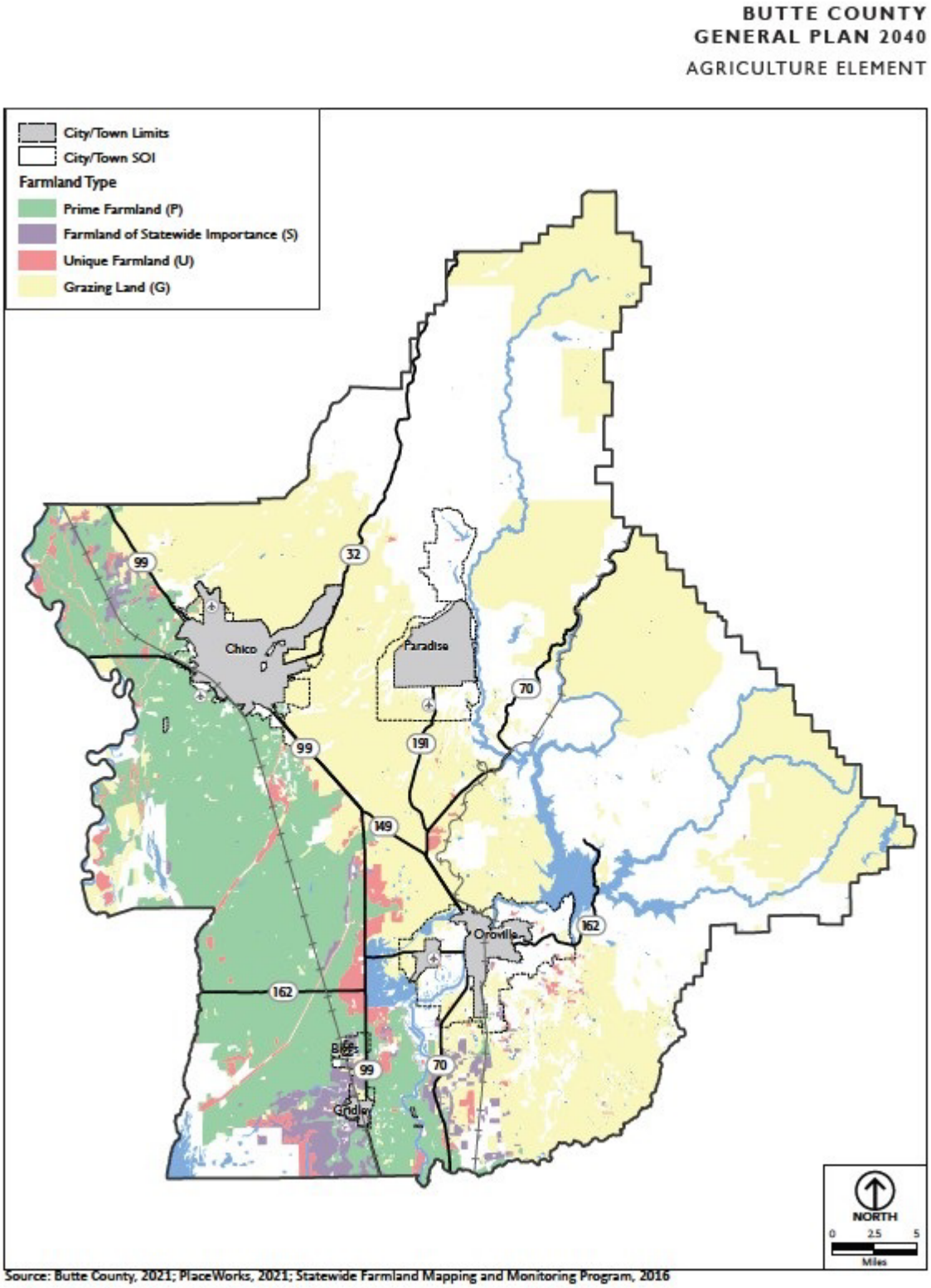


FIGURE AG-1
AGRICULTURAL LAND

As noted in the ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ELEMENT, agriculture creates significant ripple effects (i.e. multipliers) throughout California's economy, and trends indicate that agriculture will maintain a strong position within Butte County's economy. As of 2008, Butte County is ranked 18th out of the 58 California counties in total agricultural production. Compared to all other California counties, Butte County ranks second in rice production, second in kiwi fruit production, third in walnut production, third in dried plums (prunes) production, fourth in clingstone peach production, fifth in olive production, and sixth in almond production.[7] The estimated gross value of agricultural production in Butte County has grown over the past ten years to approximately $580 million in 2008.[8]

The future of Butte County's agricultural economy is supported by local agriculturalists introducing innovative approaches to farming and looking for creative ways to reintroduce farming culture and recapture earnings.

A recent trend in Butte County, and throughout the State, is agricultural tourism, in which guests visit working farms and ranches to observe and learn about farming practices and purchase locally-grown products.

FIGURE AG-2 WILLIAMSON ACT LANDS

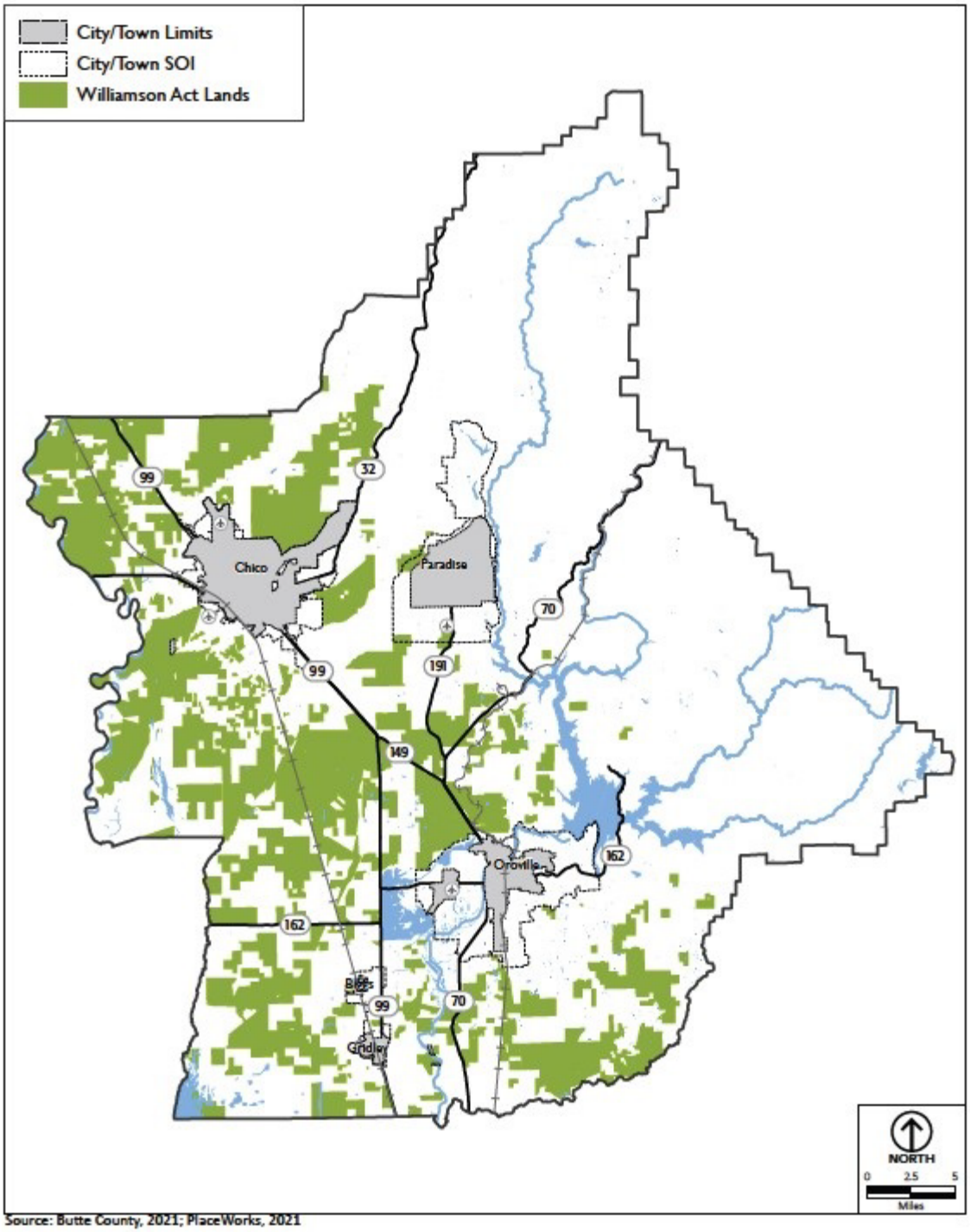


FIGURE AG-2
WILLIAMSON ACT LANDS

[2] Butte County Agricultural Commissioner, May 18, 2009, *2008 Butte County Agricultural Crop Report.*

[3] California Department of Conservation, Division of Land and Resource Protection, Federal Mapping and Monitoring Program, 2006, *Table A-3, Butte County 2004-2006 Land Use Conversion*.

[4] California Department of Conservation, August 2002, *California Land Conservation (Williamson) Act Status Report*, page 1.

[5] Butte County Department of Development Services, March 13, 2006, *Williamson Act Workshop*.

[6] California Department of Conservation, *Enrollment Summaries and Trends by County,*

http://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/lca/stats_reports/Pages/index.aspx, accessed May 28, 2009.

[7] Richard Price, Butte County Agricultural Commissioner, personal communication with Dan Breedon, Butte County, March 16, 2010.

[8] Butte County Agricultural Commissioner, May 18, 2009, *2008 Butte County Agricultural Crop Report.*

B. Goals, Policies and Actions

Goal AG-1 **Protect, maintain, promote and enhance Butte County's agriculture uses and resources, a major source of food, employment and income in Butte County.**

Policies

AG-P1.1 The County supports State and federal legislation designed to conserve soil and protect agricultural land.

AG-P1.2 The County supports agricultural education and research at Butte County educational institutions.

AG-P1.3 Continue to work with landowners in establishing new and maintaining existing Williamson Act contracts.

Actions

AG-A1.1 Maintain County policies to address consistency with the Williamson Act and future amendments.

Goal AG-2 **Protect Butte County's agricultural lands from conversion to non-agricultural uses.**

Policies

AG-P2.1 The County shall work with the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) to create and maintain a consistent approach to the conservation of agricultural land through the designation of reasonable and logical Sphere of Influence (SOI) boundaries.

AG-P2.2 The County supports private conservation organizations that utilize voluntary conservation easements as a tool for agricultural conservation, continued agricultural use, agricultural supportive uses, tax breaks and similar goals.

AG-P2.3 Redesignation and rezoning of land designated as Agriculture to an urban designation shall be allowed only when the applicant can demonstrate that the following criteria are met and mitigated:

a. The lot(s) for which conversion is requested is adjacent to uses other than agriculture or agricultural support uses (e.g. receiving plants, hulling plants).

b. The conversion will not be detrimental to existing agricultural operations.

c. The conversion land is adjacent to existing urban infrastructure and conversion will constitute a logical contiguous extension of a designated urban area.

d. No feasible alternative exists that is less detrimental to agriculture.

e. Full mitigation of impacts to the extent allowed under the law is provided, including, but not limited to, roads, drainage, schools, fire protection, law enforcement, recreation, sewage and lighting.

AG-P2.4 As set forth in the Zoning Ordinance, rezoning agricultural land to agricultural zones with lower parcel size restrictions shall be minimized and allowed only if specific criteria are met.

AG-P2.5 When a request is made for a Conditional Use Permit on a lot(s) with existing agricultural operations, an agricultural maintenance plan to provide for the continuation of existing agricultural activities shall be submitted, in accordance with the Zoning Ordinance. The plan shall be reviewed for comments and conditions by the Agricultural Commissioner and Development Services prior to the Planning Commission hearing on the Conditional Use Permit.

AG-P2.6 The County shall retain and protect agricultural lands through the use of proactive land use techniques, including, but not limited to, the following: density bonuses, permitting increased density on developable land in exchange for protection of agricultural land.

Goal AG-3 Promote innovative and economically viable agriculture.

Policies

AG-P3.1 The County shall use the existing local working group process to cooperate with the Natural Resource Conservation Service to provide support to farmers regarding conserving water, planting drought-tolerant crops and protecting natural resources.

AG-P3.2 The County supports existing efforts, such as those by the U.C. Cooperative Extension, to educate and encourage farmers to use agricultural methods that reduce or minimize use of pesticides, herbicides and manufactured fertilizers.



Olive orchard in the Oroville hills. Photo courtesy of Paula Kelso, General Plan 2030 Citizens Advisory Committee member.

Goal AG-4 Promote niche and specialty agriculture.

Policies

AG-P4.1 The County recognizes and supports the role of small farms growing specialty products in Butte County.

AG-P4.2 The County shall provide education and outreach to support farmers in diversifying their products.

AG-P4.3 The County shall facilitate the establishment of specialty farming areas that grow high value crops, such as organic and heirloom products and fruits, nuts and vegetables.

AG-P4.4 The County shall encourage the establishment of small-scale agriculture uses such as specialty crops, organic farming, specialized animal facilities and agricultural research operations on small parcels of land in existing agricultural areas.

AG-P4.5 The Unique Agriculture Overlay land use and zoning designation shall be applied to areas where farmstays, education and local retail sales are appropriate in order to support agritourism.

AG-P4.6 The Unique Agriculture Overlay shall be approved where it can be demonstrated that an area has unique agricultural, historic and cultural significance to Butte County.

AG-P4.7 Limited visitor-serving commercial uses, such as wineries and specialty produce markets, shall be allowed in agricultural areas with approval of a Use Permit, to ensure continued agricultural use and compatibility with surrounding uses.

AG-P4.8 Uses that are designed to support on-site agricultural pursuits, such as direct product sales, processing, farm-based tourism, quasi- agricultural operations and agricultural research, shall be allowed on land designated for Agriculture, subject to the design review and development standards contained in the Zoning Ordinance. Such uses shall meet the following criteria:

a. The use will not require the extension of sewer or water.

b. The use does not substantially detract from agricultural production on-site or in the area.

c. The use does not create a concentration of commercial uses in the immediate area.

d. The use is compatible with and does not adversely impact surrounding land uses.

e. The use provides for adequate traffic circulation.



Residential uses adjacent to agriculture in Butte County. Photo courtesy of the Butte County Department of Development Services.

Goal AG-5 **Reduce conflicts between urban and agricultural uses and between habitat mitigation banking and agricultural uses.**

Policies

AG-P5.1 Agricultural uses shall be the primary uses within the Agriculture land use designation. Residential uses, such as a farmer's home, and habitat mitigation banking uses shall be considered accessory uses.

AG-P5.2 Urban development and habitat mitigation banking uses shall not limit the financial sustainability of agricultural operations.

AG-P5.3 The Zoning Ordinance shall require that a buffer be established on property proposed for residential development in order to protect lands designated Agriculture by the General Plan and zoned Agriculture under the Zoning Ordinance from incompatible use conflicts. The desired standard shall be 300 feet, but may be adjusted to address unusual circumstances. This buffer requirement does not apply to projects or between projects within the interior of the Butte LAFCO-adopted Biggs/Gridley Area of Concern, which are within the Spheres of Influence for the Cities of Biggs and Gridley, but will be required on projects that are developed along the exterior boundary of the Area of Concern.*

AG-P5.4 The Zoning Ordinance shall allow animal grazing and crop cultivation, as defined under the Zoning Ordinance, as an interim use in Residential, Commercial and Industrial zones on parcels of 1-acre or larger in size. The Butte County Right-to-Farm Ordinance (Butte County Code Chapter 35) shall continue to recognize that, while not exclusively devoted to agriculture, Residential, Commercial and Industrial zones may support animal grazing and crop cultivation as an interim use prior to development.

AG-P5.5 The Zoning Ordinance shall require a setback between a new residence and an existing active orchard or vineyard that locates the residence as far away from the orchard or vineyard as practicable, taking into account adjacent agricultural uses and practices, provided it does not limit the density permitted by the residential zone, and in no case is less than 25 feet. This setback shall be imposed on the parcel developing with residences and shall be reviewed by the Zoning Administrator in consultation with the Agricultural Commissioner as to width. The setback shall be subject to a public hearing.

AG-P5.6 The Zoning Ordinance shall require that a buffer be established pursuant to Policy AG-P5.3 on property proposed for residential development requiring discretionary approval in order to protect existing Williamson Act contracts (i.e. those contracts that are in effect at the time of adoption of this policy) from incompatible use conflicts. The desired standard shall be 300 feet, but may be adjusted to address unusual circumstances.

AG-P5.7 Land divisions that separate a farmer's home or an agricultural processing facility from the agricultural land shall be prohibited, unless the lot split meets the minimum lot size requirement of the zoning district.

AG-P5.8 To protect agricultural areas from flooding, all urban/residential development projects shall provide a drainage plan prepared by a registered civil engineer that, at a minimum, addresses:

a. Pre-development drainage conditions for the development site, including peak runoff rates and runoff volumes.

b. Post-development drainage conditions, including changes in peak runoff rates and runoff volumes.

c. Off-site drainage or flooding impacts and proposed or recommended mitigation measures.

d. Mechanisms for maintenance of drainage facilities.

Actions

AG-A5.1 Periodically update the agricultural buffer setback requirements in the Zoning Ordinance and the Agricultural/Residential Buffer Implementation Guidelines to reduce conflicts between agricultural and residential and non-residential urban uses.

AG-A5.2 Periodically update the Right to Farm Ordinance to reflect changing practices.

Goal AG-6 Provide adequate infrastructure and services to support agriculture.

Policies

AG-P6.1 The County supports the efforts of private landowners and public agencies to protect farmers from catastrophic and uncontrolled flooding of permanent crops, such as orchards, nurseries and other major agricultural investments.

AG-P6.2 The County shall preserve and protect adequate and affordable agricultural irrigation water supplies for commercial farmers and ranchers.

AG-P6.3 The County shall work with water agencies and irrigation districts to improve the distribution of water for agricultural uses.

AG-P6.4 The County supports the provision of transportation infrastructure to transport agricultural goods to markets and ports.

Goal AG-7 Support resilient agricultural lands and practices.

Policies

AG-P7.1 The County supports efforts by rice growers and other farmers to adopt drought- and flood-tolerant rice and other crop varieties as they become available and suitable to meet market demand.

AG-P7.2 In partnership with the University of California (UC) Cooperative Extension and other local agricultural agencies, the County shall promote the adoption of sustainable farming practices that will aid farmers and ranchers in minimizing the effects of climate change (especially extreme temperatures and drought), safeguarding the environment, and remaining economically viable.

AG-P7.3 The County shall support and provide resources to assist farmers and ranchers in moving toward regenerative agricultural practices, including the following:

- Eliminating or decreasing tillage
- Promoting biodiversity through using multi-species cover crops
- Composting materials
- Mimicking natural grazing patterns through short-term grazing
- Using biologically appropriate soil enhancements and fertilizers

Actions

AG-A7.1 Work with the UC Cooperative Extension, Butte County Farm Bureau, and other agriculture organizations to develop methods to improve water use efficiency in the agricultural sector.

AG-A7.2 Identify and facilitate opportunities to reuse wood chips, rice straw, and other green waste as appropriate for composting, landscaping, or gardening within the county.

AG-A7.3 Consult local tribes and incorporate indigenous agricultural practices into sustainable local agriculture programs.

Goal AG-8 **Support farmworker and farm family housing in agricultural areas.**

Policies

AG-P8.1 Temporary housing for seasonal workers, including temporary sanitary and cooking facilities, shall be allowed during harvest season subject to applicable building and health codes.

8 WATER RESOURCES ELEMENT



A clean, safe, and reliable water supply is critical to Butte County's environment and economy. Photo courtesy of Tovey Giezentanner, General Plan 2030 Citizens Advisory Committee member.

Water is one of Butte County's most important natural resources. Precipitation, surface water, and groundwater contribute to Butte County's residential, commercial, agricultural, environmental, habitat, and recreational uses. Population growth, continued water demands from agricultural and industrial uses, and water needs for environmental uses are all crucial needs that compete for the county's water supply.

The Water Resources Element provides information about water supply, water quality, stormwater management, and water service in Butte County. This Element contains goals, policies, and actions designed to protect, maintain, and restore water resources and adapt to drought and other related climate change impacts. Issues related to drought and flood are also addressed in the HEALTH AND SAFETY ELEMENT.

This Element is organized into two sections:

- **Background Information.** Provides a brief overview of the existing water supply and water demands in Butte County and how they are currently managed. An expanded discussion about Butte County's water resources is available in Chapter 12 (Water Resources) of the Butte County General Plan 2040 Setting and Trends Report.
- **Goals, Policies, and Actions.** Provides additional guidance to the County related to decisions about water resources.

A. Background Information

Butte County is in the Sacramento River Hydrological Region, which includes the Sacramento River, the longest river system in the State of California and its tributaries, including, but not limited to, the Pit, Feather, Yuba, Bear, and American Rivers. The Sacramento River Hydrological Region is the main water supply for much of California's urban and agricultural areas. Major water supplies in the region are provided through surface water storage reservoirs.

1. Water Sources

The primary water source in the Sacramento River Hydrological Region, including Butte County, is surface water provided through surface storage reservoirs, which serve 69 percent of the county water needs. Groundwater provides about 30 percent of the water supply for urban and agricultural uses in the Sacramento River Hydrological Region. Based on the 2016 Butte County Water Inventory and Analysis Report, approximately 95 percent of developed water use is for irrigated agriculture and managed wetlands, with the remaining five percent for developed lands.[1]

a. Surface Water

Surface water resources in Butte County lie within the Sacramento River watershed. Primary waterways include the Feather River and its several branches and the Sacramento River, which forms the county's western boundary, as well as Butte Creek and Big Chico Creek. The majority of the surface water supply used by Butte County residents and businesses originates in the Feather River watershed, accumulates in Lake Oroville, and is primarily used for agriculture. Local irrigation districts' surface water rights are provided through the California water rights priority system, which recognizes the right to the use of water based on a first-in-time, first-in-line basis.



Lake Oroville. Photo courtesy of Tony Rushing, General Plan 2030 Citizens Advisory Committee member.

Prior to the development of the Oroville Dam, Butte County negotiated with the State of California to receive an allocation of water for growth and future needs within the county as a State Water Project Contractor. Butte County sells a portion of their State Water Project Table A allocation to the Del Oro Water Company and California Water Company – Oroville. In addition, Butte County has long-term lease agreements with other State Water Project Contractors for portions of any surplus Table A allocation. These agreements are set to expire in 2031.

b. Groundwater

A majority of residential water supply in incorporated portions of the county is extracted from groundwater basins. The availability of groundwater in an area depends largely upon its geologic, hydrologic, and climatic conditions. In Butte County, reserves of groundwater are found in the thick sedimentary deposits of the Sacramento Valley Groundwater Basin. Groundwater can also be found in more limited amounts in mountainous areas of the county within fractures of volcanic, metamorphic, and granitic rock.

Groundwater is stored in the pore spaces between particles of granular soil and rock materials, and in the joints and fractures of consolidated rocks. In coarse-grained material, such as sand and gravel, pores are more interconnected than those of clay or silt, facilitating the free movement of water. Fine-grained materials, such as clay and silt deposits, impede groundwater movement and do not readily yield water. Consolidated rocks provide storage space in their joint and fracture systems, which allow for groundwater movement and water yield. Only where wells directly intercept major joints or fractures do these aquifers provide dependable water sources.

Figure W-1 maps the groundwater basin and subbasins found within the western portions of Butte County.

The major sources of groundwater recharge in Butte County are percolation of rainfall, infiltration from streams, subsurface inflow, and deep percolation of applied irrigation water in agricultural areas.

Throughout a large portion of Butte County, freshwater reportedly extends to a depth of 1,060 feet below the ground surface, though groundwater levels can change due to extraction and natural processes. Change in groundwater storage depends on the annual rate of groundwater extraction and the annual rate of groundwater recharge, which can commonly fluctuate within a given year and from year to year. During periods of drought, groundwater in storage typically declines, but it increases during periods of above normal precipitation. Groundwater storage also declines during the summer as groundwater is extracted for municipal and agricultural use and recovers as extraction slows and seasonal precipitation increases recharge. Groundwater level declines on the order of 10 to 20 feet since 2004 have been observed in some areas of the county, primarily in the Vina subbasin over recent years, and are likely driven mainly by drought conditions leading to reduced deep percolation (potential recharge) and increased groundwater pumping.

The Butte County Department of Water and Resource Conservation has monitored groundwater quality since 2002 in response to the Butte County Groundwater Conservation Ordinance, Chapter 33 of the Butte County Code, which is described in detail in Section A.3. Butte County will continue monitoring water quality to evaluate for evidence of saline intrusion as described in the Groundwater Sustainability Plans.

FIGURE W-1 GROUNDWATER BASINS AND SUBBASINS

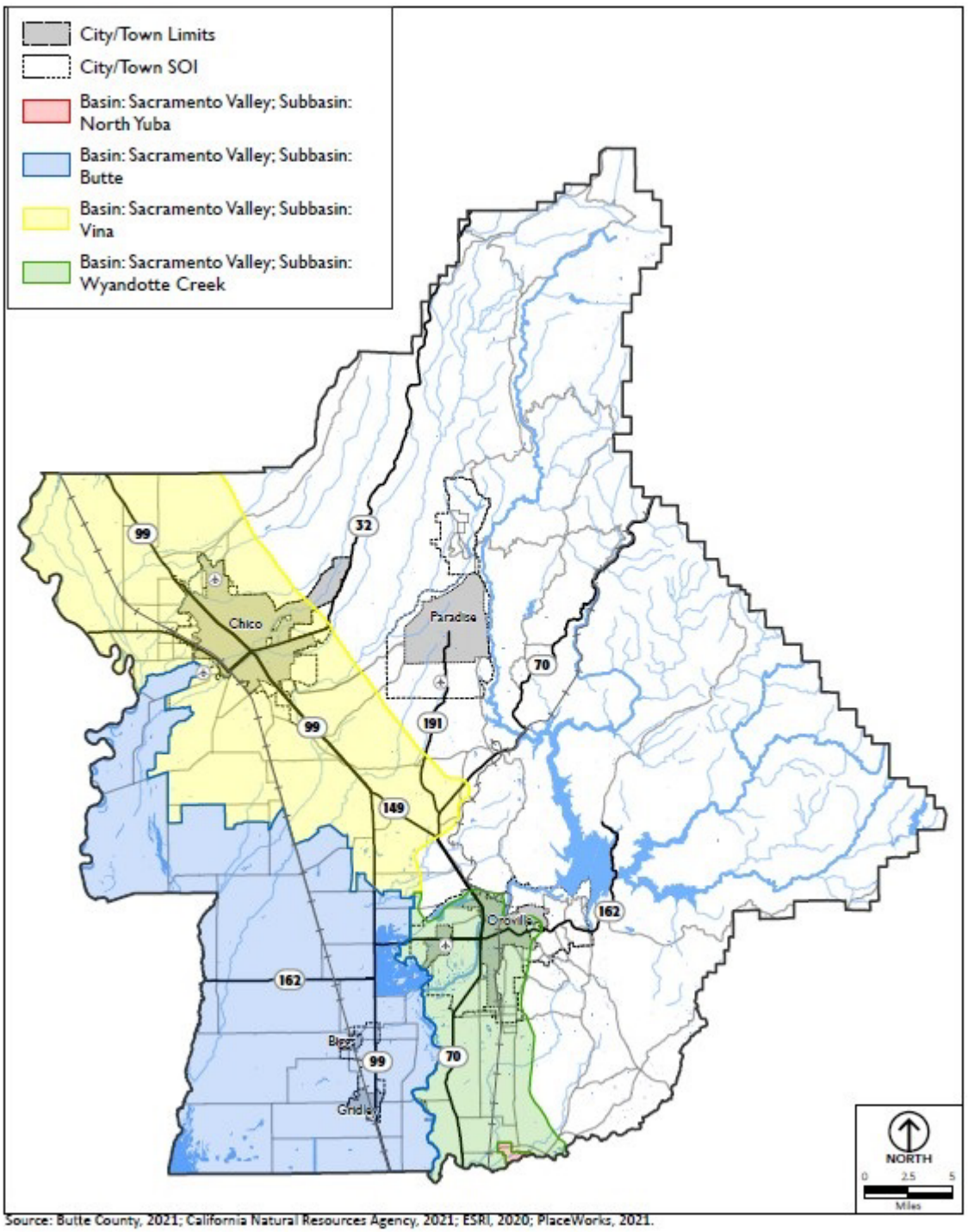


FIGURE W-1
GROUNDWATER BASINS AND SUBBASINS

Coliform bacteria, hexavalent chromium, solvents, and salts have contributed to water quality problems in the county. In the past, there have been excessive levels of coliform bacteria or nitrates entering the groundwater in the Chico and Paradise areas. Failed septic systems, or too many septic systems in a concentrated area, have been identified as probable causes. Surface water quality is also at risk from potential chemical spills, such as occurred in 1991 as a result of a train derailment on the upper Sacramento River. In addition, a number of chemicals are known to be released from hazardous waste sites within the county. There are seven groundwater contamination plumes at various sites in the City of Chico that are undergoing active remediation. An adequate supply of water of a quality suitable for all uses requires water quality management. Pollution abatement, waste treatment, efficient use of water, recycling of industrial water for reuse, and reservoir release to increase low stream flows are widely used management techniques.

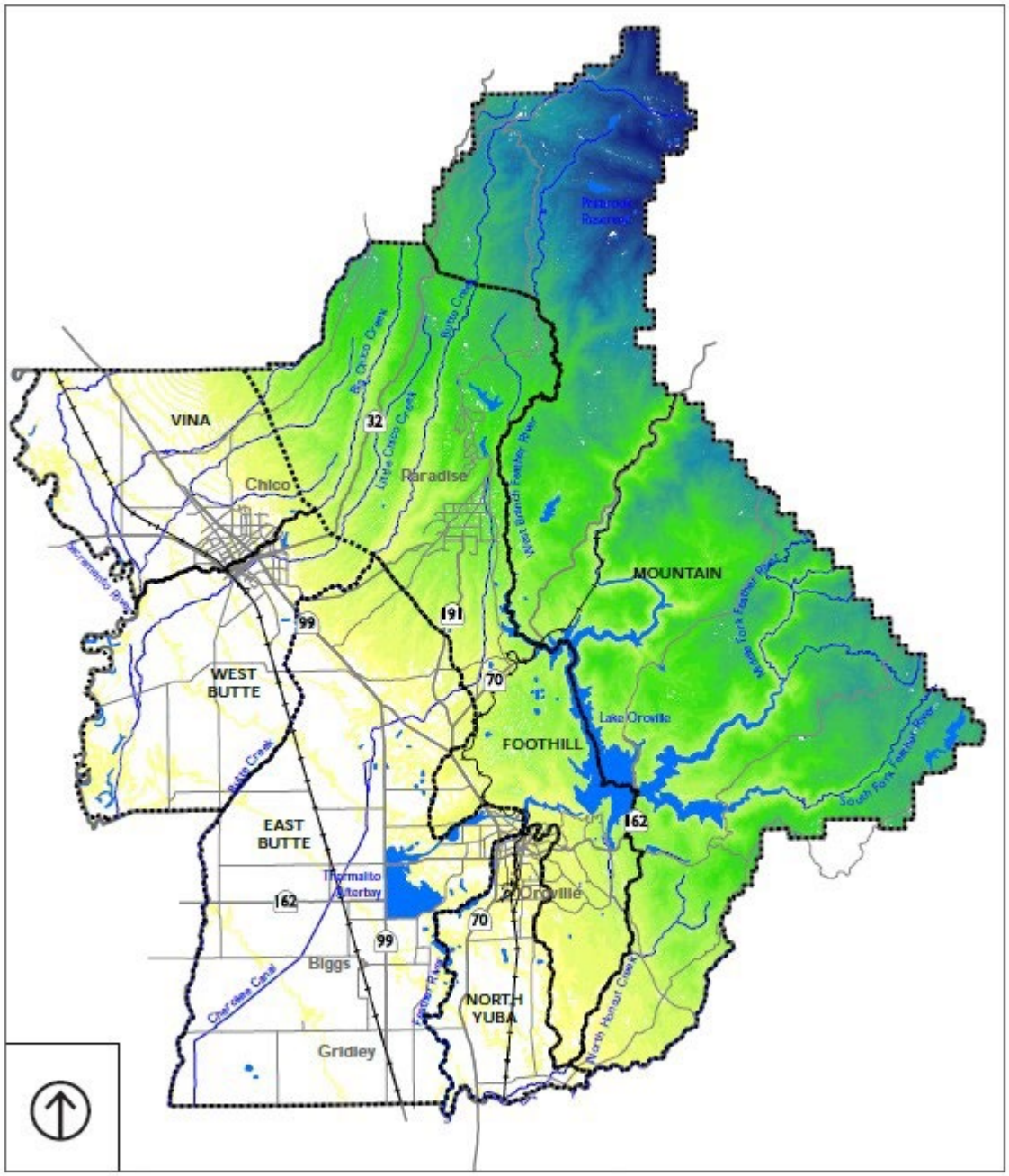
2. Water Supply and Demand

In 2016, the County updated its comprehensive inventory of the county's water resources and evaluated its overall water supply and demand. The 2016 Butte County Water Inventory and Analysis Report provided an estimate of water supply and demand for the major water users in the county: irrigated lands and wetlands, developed lands, and non-irrigated lands. For purposes of the analysis, the county was divided into six water inventory units (Vina, West Butte, East Butte, North Yuba, Foothill, and Mountain) based on hydrologic basins and water sources. The six units are mapped in Figure W-2.

Key findings of the report on water supply and demand include the following:

- Approximately 95 percent of developed water use is for irrigated agriculture and managed wetlands, with the remaining 5 percent for developed lands.
- Almost all irrigated agriculture and managed wetlands water use and the majority of developed water use occurs on the valley floor; however, surface water and groundwater supplies are critical to Foothill and Mountain inventory unit populations.
- Supplies are distributed throughout the county in the same pattern as demands, with the most water going to the West Butte inventory unit (62 percent), followed by East Butte (21 percent), Vina (11 percent), and North Yuba (6 percent).

FIGURE W-2 WATER INVENTORY UNITS



Source: PlaceWorks, Butte County General Plan 2030 Setting & Trends Report, 2007.

Figure W-2
WATER INVENTORY UNITS

3. Butte County Water Resource Management Efforts

Butte County is involved in many ongoing efforts to protect and conserve its water resources. This section discusses organizations, processes, and programs the County is involved with that aim to manage its water resources quality and supply.

a. County Departments

- **Butte County Department of Water and Resource Conservation (BCDWRC).** The mission of the BCDWRC is to manage and conserve water and other resources for the citizens of Butte County. BCDWRC is involved in a wide range of activities focused on water resources monitoring and planning. BCDWRC is responsible for implementing some of the key water resource planning documents, coordinating the activities of the Water Commissions, overseeing various water advisory groups, and supporting regional water resource management efforts. The BCDWRC also provides support for implementation of Chapter 33, the Groundwater Conservation Ordinance. BCDWRC is also involved in developing and expanding the well-monitoring grid. Other important roles include: management of Butte County's 27,500 acre-feet of State Water Project allocation and California Department of Water Resources contracts and long-term lease agreements, including those the County holds with Del Oro Water Company, California Water Service Company, and other State Water Project Contractors for portions of any surplus Table A allocation; assessing countywide water supply and demand from current and future users; implementing the County's Drought Preparedness and Mitigation Plan (Drought Preparedness Plan) and overseeing the Drought Task Force; participating in watershed planning activities with local and regional water resources management groups; representing the County as a member agency of both the Vina Subbasin and Wyandotte Creek Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSA) and serving as staff for the Butte GSA within the Butte Subbasin; and managing BCDWRC's work on the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA).
- **Butte County Public Health Department, Environmental Health Division (EH).** EH's mission includes protecting the environment for the benefit of current and future generations through public education guidance and regulatory oversight. EH supports the state's goal of preserving and enhancing the quality of California's water resources. EH enforces state laws related to drinking water through the County's Public Water Systems Program and also has regulatory oversight over private wells. EH is also responsible for protecting water resources by regulating the storage of hazardous materials, the proper disposal of wastewater, and the proper disposal of all solid wastes within Butte County.

b. Boards, Commissions, and Advisory Groups

- **Butte County Water Commission.** The Water Commission meets monthly to discuss water issues in the county and provide recommendations to the Board of Supervisors for actions related to water resources, including the development of water policies. There are nine members of the Water Commission who serve four- year terms. Water Commissioners are appointed by the Butte County Board of Supervisors. With support from their seven-person Technical Advisory Committee, the Water Commission monitors and informs the Board of Supervisors of state and federal legislation and water policies. The Water Commission reviews water resource concerns, defines problems, recommends solutions, and provides a venue for public input on water issues separate from the Board of Supervisors.
- **Wastewater Advisory Committee (WAC) -** The WAC is composed of stakeholders from the on-site wastewater industry, Board of Realtors, building industry, engineers specializing in environmental consultation, and Butte County residents. The WAC members work toward the following objectives:
    - Development and maintenance of the On-Site Wastewater Manual;
    - Application of new on-site collection, treatment, conveyance, and dispersal technology;

- Development and oversight of a system for ensuring that on-site wastewater systems are appropriately operated, maintained, and monitored;
- Maintenance of Butte County Code Chapter 19 and the On-Site Wastewater Manual; and
- Development and maintenance of policies, practices, and procedures to improve protection of public health and delivery of customer service pertaining to the implementation of Butte County Code Chapter 19 and the On-Site Wastewater Manual.

- **Drought Task Force.** In 2004, the Butte County Board of Supervisors adopted the Drought Preparedness and Mitigation Plan through Resolution 04-200. A major element of the Drought Preparedness and Mitigation Plan was the creation of the Drought Task Force (DTF). Through the DTF, the Board of Supervisors receives recommendations on current conditions and actions that the County should take to minimize the impacts of drought and ensure a long-term sustainable supply of water during all hydrologic conditions. The BCDWRC is responsible for leading the DTF.
- **Technical Advisory Committee.** The purpose of the Butte County Water Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) is to work in cooperation with the Butte County Water Commission to develop a County-wide groundwater monitoring program by advising the Water Commission in areas requiring technical expertise. In addition, the TAC provides expertise for the use, maintenance, and protection of all water resources throughout the county. The TAC consists of seven members nominated by the Butte County Water Commission, and appointed by the Board of Supervisors. Each member of the TAC must have substantial expertise in water management or hydrology. There is no definite term of appointment.
- **Water Well Advisory Group.** The Water Well Advisory Group is composed of stakeholders that represent well drillers and pump contractors, and it makes recommendations for revisions to Chapter 23B of the Butte County Code, Water Wells. The group also provides recommendations on development and maintenance of the Well Construction Manual and implementation of new well construction and technology.

c. Ordinances, Plans, and Programs

- **Butte County Groundwater Conservation Ordinance (Chapter 33).** In November 1996, Butte County voters approved the Groundwater Conservation Ordinance, which is intended to conserve groundwater by regulating water transfers outside of the county that have a groundwater component. Under this ordinance, a permit is required for both exportation of groundwater outside the county and groundwater pumping as a substitute for surface water exported outside the county. A permit for this type of water transfer outside of the county would be denied if the proposed activity would adversely affect the groundwater resources in the county, including causing or increasing overdraft of the groundwater; causing or increasing saltwater intrusion; exceeding the safe yield of the aquifer or related subbasins within the county; causing subsidence; or resulting in uncompensated injury to overlying groundwater users or other users.
- **Butte County Code, Section 19.** The purpose of this Code section is to:
  - Protect public health and the environment by protecting ground and surface water quality.
  - Establish an administrative framework allowing the adoption of science- based standards for design, construction, installation, operation, maintenance, monitoring, replacement, alteration, enlargement, repair, and abandonment of on-site wastewater treatment, conveyance, and dispersal systems.
  - Provide for compliance and enforcement of a comprehensive on-site regulatory program.
  - Ensure compliance with applicable standards, laws, and guidelines as adopted, and/or modified by the State of California, Water Resources Control Board, or the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB).

- **Butte County Code, Section 23B.** The purpose of this Code section is to provide minimum procedures for the proper construction of water wells and for the proper destruction of abandoned wells to ensure that water obtained from wells within the county will be suitable for the intended use and that wells constructed or abandoned will not cause pollution or impairment of the quality of the groundwater within the county. This Code section also attempts to reduce potential well interference problems to existing wells and potential adverse impacts to the environment that could be caused by the construction of new wells or the repair or deepening of existing wells.
- **Groundwater Modeling.** The BCDWRC manages a detailed hydrologic model of the groundwater basin that was developed by the Butte Basin Water Users Association in the 1990s. Since its original development, the groundwater model has been updated several times, including transitioning it to the modeling code IWFM-2015, which is widely used throughout the state, and updating inputs on the hydrogeologic system and water budget to support development of Groundwater Sustainability Plans. It is used to develop water budgets for the local implementation of SGMA; evaluates the effects on the aquifer system of groundwater withdrawal, climate change, and land use changes; and serves as a comprehensive water resources planning tool for the three groundwater subbasins within Butte County (Vina, Wyandotte Creek, and Butte). Modeling can or has been used to evaluate the impact of transfers, artificial recharge projects, increased pumping from urban expansion, and wetland projects, as well as the effects of long- term drought conditions and climate change.
- **Northern Sacramento Valley Regional Water Management Group and Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Plan.** Butte County participates in an MOU with the Counties of Colusa, Glenn, Tehama, Shasta, and Sutter to promote regional coordination, collaboration, and communication about many shared water resources. This group developed and implements the Northern Sacramento Valley Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (NSV IRWM Plan), a collaborative effort to enhance coordination of the water resources in the region. IRWM involves multiple agencies, stakeholders, tribes, individuals, and groups to address water-related issues and offer solutions that can provide multiple benefits to the region. Representatives of the six counties are working in partnership with community stakeholders, tribes, and the public to identify the water-related needs of the region, informing the development and identification of goals, objectives, projects, and programs to be included in the NSV IRWM Plan.
- **Upper Feather River Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (UFR IRWM Plan).** The UFR IRWM Plan is an innovative, stakeholder-driven collaboration among local government, tribes, watershed groups, and interested partners in the headwaters of the Feather River. The UFR IRWM region encompasses 3,604 square miles of the northern Sierra Nevada and includes all of Plumas County and portions of Sierra, Butte, Lassen, and Yuba Counties. The watershed extends from the California/Nevada border to the Oroville Dam and from Mount Lassen to Sierra Valley. The collective streams, rivers, lakes, and reservoirs of the watershed flow into Lake Oroville, which is the principal storage facility for the State Water Project that delivers water to approximately two-thirds of California's population. The UFR IRWM Plan was unanimously adopted by the Regional Water Management Group on November 18, 2016. The Plan is compliant with 2016 Proposition 1 IRWM Standards, thereby establishing regional eligibility for Proposition 1 IRWM grant funding.
- **Groundwater Sustainability Plans.** In 2014, the passing of SGMA created the requirements for governments and water agencies of high- and medium-priority basins to bring groundwater basins into sustainable yield and avoid undesirable results for groundwater users.2 Butte County overlies the Butte, Vina, and Wyandotte Creek subbasins, which are subject to SGMA. Consistent with SGMA, the Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) in each of the subbasins adopted the corresponding Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) in December 2021.

Upon adoption of the GSP for each subbasin, the County's Groundwater Management Plan (adopted in 2004) is no longer in effect.

- **Butte County Integrated Water Resources Plan (IWRP).** The IWRP (adopted in 2005) was developed based on input from local stakeholders to improve water management and resource components, including the former AB 3030 Groundwater Management Plan (GMP 2004), former Chapter 33A Groundwater Basin Management Objectives, and the Drought Preparedness and Mitigation Plan. The IWRP provided recommendations for water management policies, as well as programs and projects to implement those policies. The policies focused on local water resource issues and cooperative water management with other entities. The IWRP set the stage for many of the County's water planning efforts.
- **Drought Preparedness and Mitigation Plan.** The BCDWRC maintains the Butte County Drought Preparedness and Mitigation Plan (Drought Plan), adopted by the Butte County Board of Supervisors to protect the county from the effects of drought and prepare appropriate responses. The purpose of the Drought Plan is to provide an efficient and systematic process for Butte County that results in a short- and long-term reduction in drought impacts to the citizens, economy, and environment in Butte County. To facilitate water resource planning, it is necessary to understand the effects of and prepare for drought. The Drought Plan includes Butte County's drought background; an institutional framework to approach drought; a monitoring plan; a response and mitigation plan to help with the reliability of water supply for other California communities when resources are available; and a discussion of water transfers during a drought. Actions are identified that lead to a long-term sustainable supply of water during all hydrologic conditions.
- **Small Water System Program.** The EH Small Water Systems Program is designated as the Local Primacy Agency (LPA) responsible for the enforcement of state and federal regulations. These regulations are designed to ensure that small public water systems deliver safe, adequate, and dependable (potable) drinking water. The LPA oversees all public water systems with less than 200 service connections and is involved with permitting, inspection, and water quality monitoring. EH has approximately 90 small public water systems serving subdivisions, mobile home parks, schools, and businesses.
- **Land Use Program.** The EH Land Use Program looks at wastewater design and installation, well siting and permits, land divisions, use permits, and other related projects that involve septic systems and wells.

In addition to these resource management efforts, the County coordinates closely with federal and state agencies, urban water agencies, irrigation districts, water districts, advocacy groups, and other non-profit organizations.



South Feather Water and Power Agency's Kelly Ridge Powerhouse penstock. Photo courtesy of the Butte County Department of Development Services.

4. Water Service Providers

Much of Butte County's residential, commercial, and agricultural water needs are met through a network of local water providers, including municipal water departments, private water companies, irrigation districts, and community service districts. Local water companies and water districts manage domestic water supply in the county. This water supply includes water for drinking, residential, and commercial uses. A significant portion of domestic water is obtained through private residential wells.

Municipal water departments, such as the Cities of Gridley and Biggs, provide water service to municipal residents, generally distributed in pipes along roads in the service area. Mutual water companies are private corporations that perform water supply and distribution functions similar to public water districts, such as Cal Water Service Company. Investor-owned utilities may also be involved in water supply activities, sometimes as an adjunct of hydroelectric power development. Irrigation districts are designed to ensure delivery of sufficient water supplies for agricultural uses, though they may serve some residential and commercial uses.

Figure W-3 maps the service area boundaries of the various public water systems and irrigation districts in Butte County, which include municipal water companies, mutual water companies, investor-owned utilities, and irrigation districts.

FIGURE W-3 WATER PROVIDERS AND SERVICE AREA BOUNDARIES

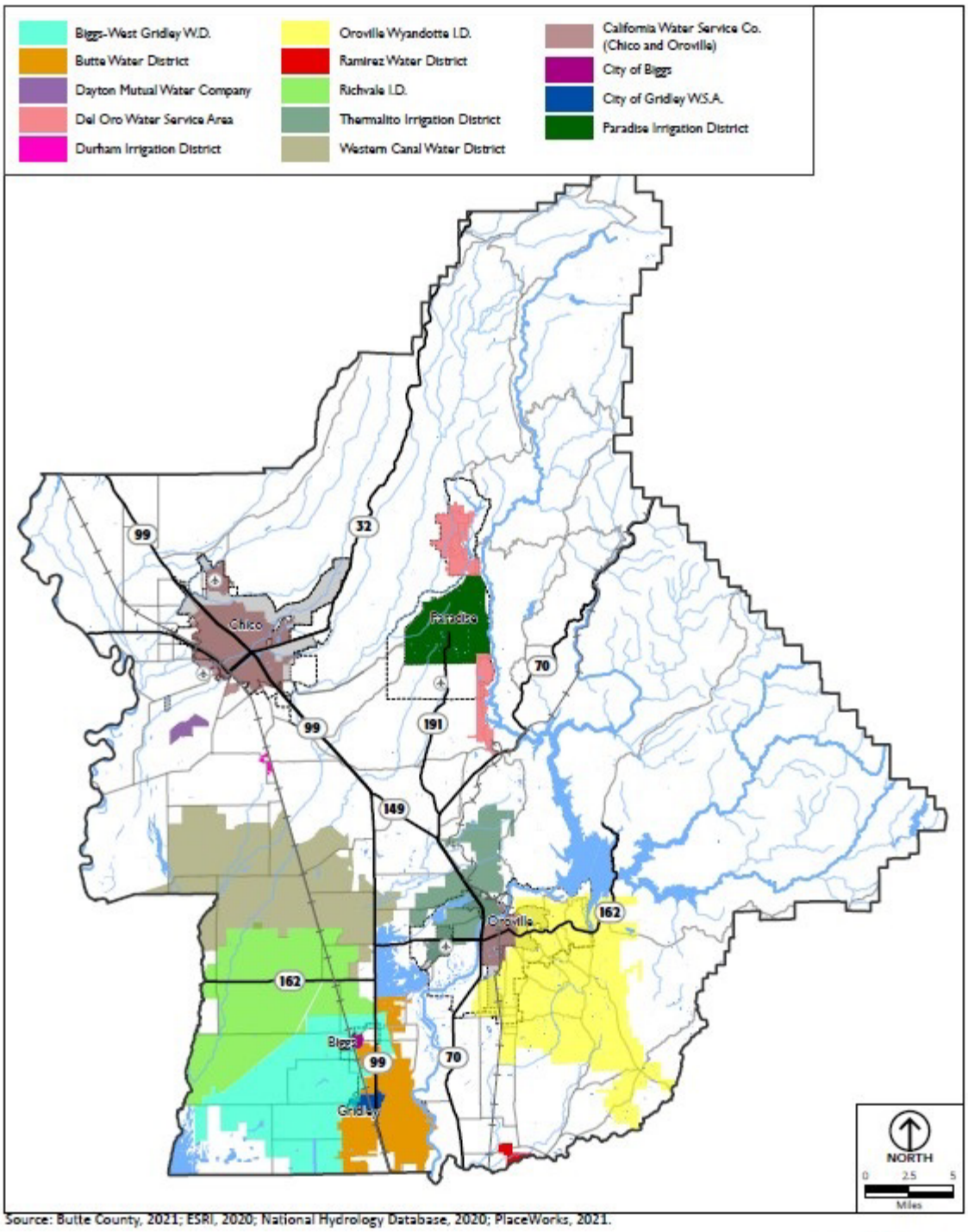


FIGURE W-3

WATER PROVIDERS AND SERVICE AREA BOUNDARIES

5. Water Storage Facilities

In contrast to the limited number of natural lakes in the county, there are numerous human-made impoundments, which store a portion of the county's abundant surface water supply, while also providing flood protection. Oroville Dam and reservoir on the Feather River is the second-largest water storage facility in California and is the initial and largest reservoir of the State Water Project. Water stored in Lake Oroville serves many users, both within the county and beyond, including users in southern California. In addition to Lake Oroville, other water storage facilities in Butte County include the Thermalito Afterbay, Thermalito Forebay, Paradise Reservoir, and Magalia Reservoir, as well as a number of other surface water storage reservoirs.

6. Stormwater Management

The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) regulates water quality in California to protect the environment and public health and to properly allocate water resources. One of the main ways that the SWRCB and the Clean Water Act can ensure that stormwater will not contain pollutants is through the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. The NPDES regulates stormwater discharges from three main sources: Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4), construction activities, and industrial activities. All three sources require different NPDES permits to regulate and enforce mitigation measures within specific physical boundaries before stormwater is discharged. This prevents harmful pollutants from running off into local, state, and federal surface waters, such as lakes, streams, and rivers.

Butte County, the Town of Paradise, and the Cities of Chico and Oroville have their own traditional SWRCB Small Phase II MS4 Programs. Additionally, within Butte County, California State University Chico and the Silver Dollar Fairground have their own non-traditional MS4 Programs with the State. Each MS4 permit holder has their own management plans for stormwater and associated discharges.

In addition, Butte County has adopted a Stormwater Management and Discharge Ordinance that allows the County to enforce water pollution prevention to limit detrimental stormwater discharges. The Stormwater Ordinance can be found in Chapter 50 of the Butte County Code and further implements the County's MS4 Permit. The Stormwater Ordinance limits discharges into the County storm drain system, natural surface waters, and water courses, and requires the implementation of best management practices to prevent the discharge of pollutants to the maximum extent practical. The County has the authority to inspect, monitor, and enforce implementation of best management practices and prohibit illicit discharges.

7. Streambank Stability and Riparian Resources

Streambank instability is a potential hazard along rivers and streams in Butte County. A streambank may be considered unstable if the slopes surrounding the stream are excessively steep and present a potential landslide hazard or if erosion is occurring at a relatively high rate. Seismically-induced ground shaking also poses a threat to streambank stability, especially in areas where surrounding slopes are steep or where there is a large standing body of water below. Fire-related erosion can also lead to streambank instability when protective vegetation that anchors the land surrounding streams and in the watershed is lost to fire.



Concow Reservoir. Photo courtesy of the Butte County Department of Development Services.

Human activity and development are other important causes of streambank instability. Best management practices have been developed and environmental regulations adopted to stabilize the banks, and to minimize near and in-channel disruptions of streams and rivers in Butte County.

Riparian habitats are considered sensitive natural communities and should be given special consideration because they provide several important ecological functions, including streambank stabilization, water quality maintenance, and essential habitat for wildlife and fisheries resources. The Health and Safety and CONSERVATION AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENTs also discuss other issues associated with erosion, streambank stability, and riparian resources.

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[1] Butte County, *Water Inventory & Analysis Report*, 2016.

[2] Basin priority is based on factors such as current and projected population, amount of water supply wells, amount of irrigated acreage, degree of reliance on groundwater, and documented groundwater impacts like saltwater intrusion, overdraft, and subsidence. There are no low- or very low-priority basins in Butte County.

B. Goals, Policies, and Actions

Goal W-1 **Maintain and enhance water quality.**

Policies

W-P1.1 County planning and programs shall be integrated with other watershed planning efforts, including best management practices, guidelines, and policies of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (CVRWQCB) and local Groundwater Sustainability Plans.

W-P1.2 The County shall cooperate with state and local agencies in efforts to identify and eliminate or minimize all sources of existing and potential point and non-point sources of pollution to ground and surface waters, including, but not limited to, illegal cannabis grows, burn scars, groundwater recharge, leaking fuel tanks, discharges from storm drains, auto dismantling, dump sites, sanitary waste systems, parking lots, roadways, and logging and mining operations.

W-P1.3 Regulations that protect water quality from the impacts of agricultural and industrial activities shall be maintained.

W-P1.4 Where appropriate, new development shall be Low-Impact Development (LID) that minimizes impervious area, minimizes runoff and pollution, and incorporates best management practices.

W-P1.5 Educational programs and outreach shall be continued to promote water quality protection and limit pollution from pesticides and nutrients.

W-P1.6 Agriculture, logging, mining, recreational vehicle use, and other open space uses shall follow best management practices to minimize erosion and protect water resources.*

W-P1.7 The County supports conversion from septic systems to public sewer service, where feasible.

W-P1.8 The County supports the establishment of a system for proper disposal of expired medications.

Actions

W-A1.1 Support the expansion of the monitoring and reporting efforts of Butte County's Department of Water and Resource Conservation.

W-A1.2 Develop standards to determine where Low Impact Development (LID) techniques are appropriate.

Goal W-2 **Ensure an abundant and sustainable water supply to support all uses in Butte County.**

Policies

W-P2.1 The County supports solutions to ensure the sustainability of community water supplies.

W-P2.2 The County may continue the Six-County Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Colusa, Glenn, Tehama, Shasta, and Sutter Counties, continue participation in the local GSAs and Groundwater Advisory Boards, and continue to support the Northern Sacramento Valley and Upper Feather River Integrated Regional Water Management and local Groundwater Sustainability Plans.

W-P2.3 Water resources shall be planned and managed in a way that relies on sound science, data, and public participation.

W-P2.4 The County's State Water Project allocation (27,500 acre-feet) should be fully utilized within Butte County when technically and economically feasible to maximize the benefit and value to Butte County by prioritizing use within the county.

W-P2.5 The expansion of public water systems to areas identified for future development in the General Plan land use map is encouraged.

W-P2.6 The development and maintenance of innovative water treatment systems to clean and disinfect water is encouraged.

W-P2.7 The Butte County Water Commission and the Department of Water and Resource Conservation shall continue to be important partners in the water resource planning process.

W-P2.8 The County supports Area of Origin and County of Origin water rights, the existing water right priority system, and the authority to make water management decisions locally to meet the county's current and future needs, thereby protecting Butte County's communities, economy, and environment.

W-P2.9 Applicants for new major development projects, as determined by the Department of Development Services, shall demonstrate adequate water supply to meet the needs of the project, including an evaluation of potential cumulative impacts to surrounding groundwater users and the environment in accordance with local Groundwater Sustainability Plans.*

W-P2.10 The use of surface water to support the economic development of agriculture is encouraged.

W-P2.11 Landscaping projects shall use native plants that will continue to be viable in the area under long-term drought conditions.

W-P2.12 The County stall ensure that there are adequate water supplies for fire protection services.

Actions

W-A2.1 Participate in the implementation and update of Groundwater Sustainability Plans to ensure the sustainability of water resources within the county.

W-A2.2 Cooperate with local water purveyors to seek funds to conduct a study to evaluate options to convey or exchange the County's State Water Project Table A allocation to areas in the county not currently served by this source.

W-A2.3 Develop criteria to implement Policy W-P2.9, including thresholds for the size of development project that triggers the need for an analysis of water supply and standards to demonstrate adequate water supply and evaluate impacts to surrounding groundwater users.

Goal W-3 Protect and manage groundwater resources in Butte County.

Policies

W-P3.1 Groundwater transfers and substitution programs shall be locally regulated to protect the sustainability of the County's economy, communities, and ecosystems.

W-P3.2 The County shall protect groundwater recharge and groundwater quality when considering new development projects.*

Actions

W-A3.1 Continue to seek funding for and participate in efforts to conduct comprehensive, countywide mapping of water resources and groundwater recharge areas.

W-A3.2 Evaluate gaps in existing federal, state, and local standards, and develop additional standards as needed to preserve groundwater resources and protect groundwater quality.

W-A3.3 Seek funds and develop programs that improve the scientific understanding of regional aquifer systems and potential factors related to the sustainability of the county's water resources.

Goal W-4 **Support coordination between Groundwater Sustainability Agencies in Butte County.**

Policies

W-P4.1 The County shall work cooperatively with the Groundwater Sustainability Agencies in the three subbasins in Butte County to support implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act to ensure the County has sustainable water supplies.

W-P4.2 The County supports working towards Sustainable Groundwater Management Ac implementation to ensure the sustainability of groundwater resources, including groundwater levels, groundwater quality, and avoidance of land subsidence, and supports programs that rely on management at the local level, use sound scientific data, and ensure compliance, where consistent with the County's goals and policies.

W-P4.3 Public information and involvement should be encouraged in the groundwater sustainability planning, collaboration, and coordination process.

W-P4.4 The County shall consult applicable Groundwater Sustainability Plans and local groundwater management agencies when making decisions that could impact groundwater resources.

Actions

W-A4.1 Coordinate regionally with Groundwater Sustainability Agencies and other counties to develop data analysis and approaches to protect local beneficial uses and users of groundwater.

Goal W-5 **Promote water conservation as an important part of a long-term and sustainable water supply.**

Policies

W-P5.1 Agricultural and urban water use efficiency shall be promoted.

W-P5.2 The County shall coordinate with local Resource Conservation Districts, the Natural Resource Conservation Service, the Northern Sacramento Valley and Upper Feather River Integrated Water Management groups, Butte County Groundwater Sustainability Agencies, and local special districts to ensure consistent and effective water conservation measures and messaging.

W-P5.3 The County should work with municipal and industrial water purveyors or users to implement water conservation policies and measures, including recycling and reuse.

W-P5.4 Opportunities to recover and uses treated wastewater for beneficial purposes shall be promoted and encouraged.

W-P5.5 The use of captured water and reuse of grey water for non-potable uses shall be encouraged.

W-P5.6 New development projects shall adopt best management practices for water use efficiency and demonstrate specific water conservation measures.*

W-P5.7 County facilities shall adopt water conservation measures and when appropriate retrofit existing facilities to improve water conservation.

Actions

W-A5.1 Increase participation in water conservation programs to reduce water use throughout Butte County.

W-A5.2 Provide education and increase awareness about water conservation and protection.

Goal W-6 Protect water quality through effective stormwater management.

Policies

W-P6.1 New development projects shall identify and adequately mitigate their water quality impacts from stormwater runoff.*

W-P6.2 The use of permeable surfaces and rainwater catchment/retention systems shall be allowed and encouraged to enhance groundwater recharge.

W-P6.3 Temporary facilities shall be installed as necessary during construction activities to adequately treat stormwater runoff from construction sites.*

W-P6.4 Stormwater collection systems shall be installed concurrently with construction of new roadways to maximize efficiency and minimize disturbance from construction activity.

W-P6.5 Stormwater channels should be managed in a way that produces co- benefits, such as supporting recharge, improving water quality, providing recreation areas, and reducing flood risk.

Actions

W-A6.1 Continue outreach activities to inform residents and workers that illegal discharge into storm drains negatively impacts groundwater and surface water quality, such as through “No Dumping” markers and the Keep Chico Clean project.

Goal W-7 Improve streambank stability and protect riparian resources.

Policies

W-P7.1 Any alteration of natural channels for flood control shall retain and protect riparian vegetation to the extent possible while still accomplishing the goal of providing flood control. Where removing existing riparian vegetation is unavoidable, the alteration shall allow for reestablishment of vegetation without compromising the flood flow capacity.

W-P7.2 Where streambanks are already unstable, as demonstrated by erosion or landslides along banks, tree collapse, or severe in-channel sedimentation, proponents of new development projects shall prepare a hydraulic and/or geomorphic assessment of on-site and downstream drainageways that are affected by project area runoff.*

Goal W-8 Improve resiliency of water supplies and related infrastructure impacted by climate change, including natural disasters such as wildfire, drought, and flooding.

Policies

W-P8.1 The County shall pursue immediate local, state, and federal funding for small community water systems that have been damaged or impacted by climate change.

W-P8.2 The County shall coordinate with local water suppliers to provide water to residents impacted by drought through such means as water filling stations, water storage tanks at homes, and coordination with water haulers.

W-P8.3 The County shall coordinate with the owners of water recreation sites to begin offering alternative forms of recreation that are less dependent on water levels, such as hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, and picnicking.

W-P8.4 The County shall support efforts by rice growers and other farmers to adopt drought- and flood-tolerant rice and other crop varieties as they become available and suitable to meet market demand.

Actions

W-A8.1 Integrate climate change into water supply projections and management.

W-A8.2 Partner with local water and irrigation agencies and special districts to implement and support drought-response policies.

W-A8.3 Maintain and implement the Drought Preparedness and Mitigation Plan in coordination with other applicable County planning documents and current legislation.

W-A8.4 Monitor and report drought-related impacts and provide direct resources to and serve as an educational hub for those impacted by drought.

W-A8.5 Help residents and small community water systems throughout the county prepare for drought by upgrading water treatment capacities and water storage and conveyance infrastructure.

9 CIRCULATION ELEMENT



The Midway passes through orchards near Chico. Photo courtesy of Pia Sevelius, General Plan 2030 Citizens Advisory Committee member.

The Circulation Element is concerned with the efficient movement of people and goods in and around the county in a manner that minimizes the risk of harm when traveling. The Circulation Element reflects the urban and rural diversity of the county's unincorporated areas and provides for coordination with the incorporated municipalities within the county; the Butte County Association of Governments (BCAG), as the Regional Transportation Planning Agency; and any State or federal agencies that fund and/or manage transportation facilities within the county.

The Element contains background circulation information for a wide range of existing and planned transportation modes, including roads, transit, non-motorized transportation, rail, and aviation. To ensure that the county's transportation system can accommodate growth anticipated during this planning period, the Circulation Element works closely with the Land Use Element of the General Plan, as required by Section 65302(b) of the California Government Code. The Circulation Element also draws from information contained in the 2020 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS), which is the regional planning document prepared by BCAG as required by State and federal law.

The Circulation Element sets forth goals and policies describing the mobility and accessibility aspirations for the county and identifies the general location of existing and proposed major transportation routes, terminals, and other local public facilities, as required by the Government Code.

The Circulation Element is divided into the following sections:

- **Background Information.** Contains information on vehicular, public transit, bicycle, pedestrian, aviation and rail circulation. An expanded discussion about transportation and circulation in Butte County is available in Chapter 5 (Transportation and Circulation) of the Butte County General Plan 2040 Setting and Trends Report.
- **Roadway Functional Classifications and Standards.** Defines classifications and standards for freeways and expressways, regional highways, urban roadways, and rural roadways.
- **Programmed, Planned and Proposed Improvements.** Describes the programmed, planned, and proposed improvements to the roadways and intersections, public transit, bicycle network, and freight delivery system that will need to be undertaken over the next 20 years.
- **Goals, Policies and Actions.** Provides goals and policies that are designed to improve circulation in Butte County.

A. Background Information

This section provides background information about vehicular circulation, transit, bicycle facilities, sidewalks, aviation, and rail.



State Route 70. Photo courtesy of the Butte County Department of Development Services.

1. Vehicular Circulation

Automobile travel is the primary mode of transportation in Butte County. This section describes the existing roadway system, roadway capacity, and level of service.

a. Existing Roadway System

Butte County has more than 2,000 miles of public roadways, which are under the jurisdiction of various government entities. These roadways carry an estimated 4.7 million miles of travel demand annually, according to the 2019 *California Public Road Data: Statistical Information Derived from the Highway Performance Monitoring System* report from the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). Figure CIR-1 shows Butte County's major roadway facilities.

FIGURE CIR-1 EXISTING TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

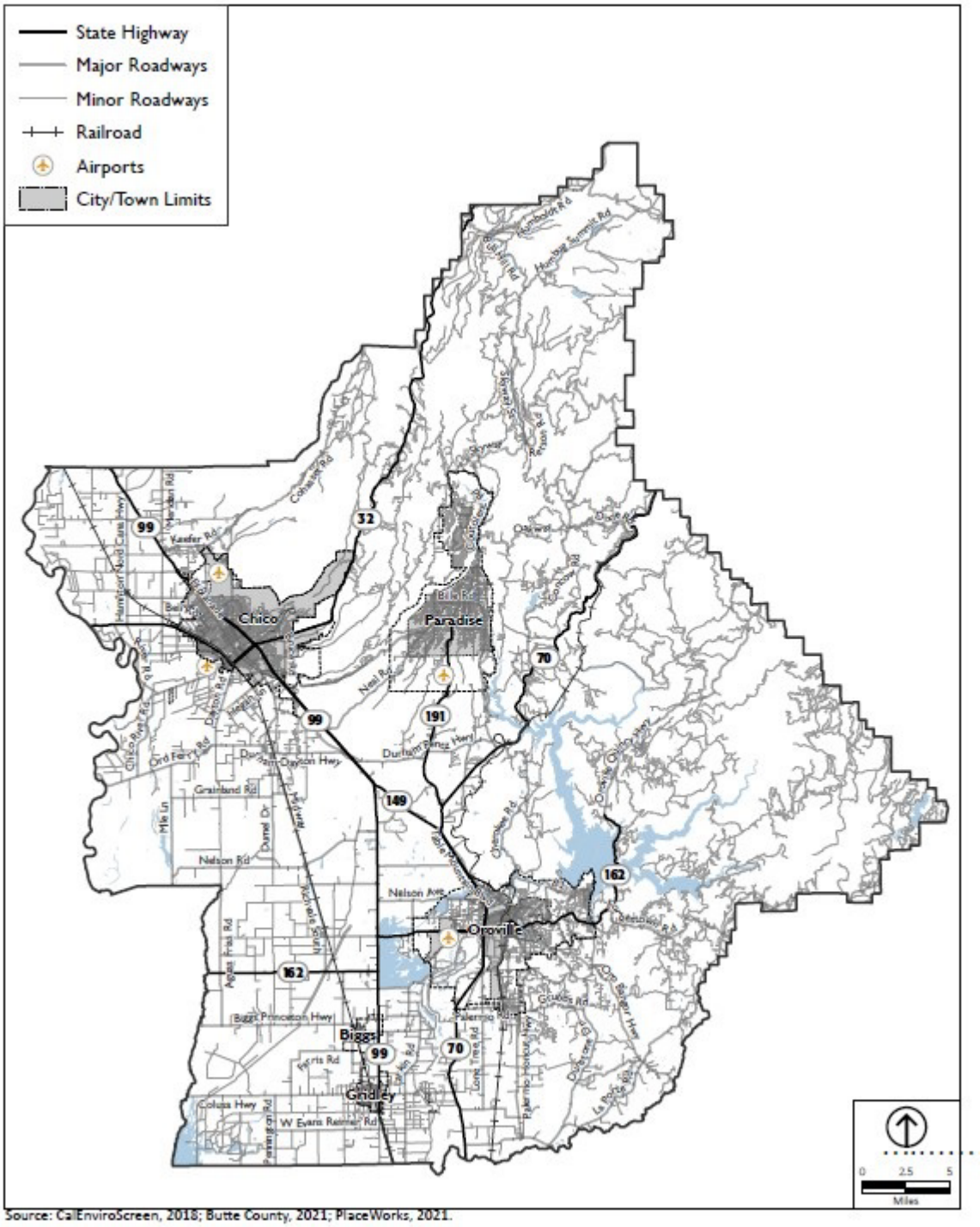


FIGURE CIR-1
EXISTING TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

The geography of Butte County constrains overland transportation and circulation. In the flat valley of the southwestern portion of the county, the circulation system is affected most significantly by the Feather River. The river bisects the lower portion of the county running south. In the foothills and mountains of the eastern part of the county, travel is limited mainly to east-west roadways that run through valleys and canyons. Human-made barriers also constrain automobile traffic. For instance, roadway expansion, intersection improvements, and turning movements are affected by the railroad tracks running north-south parallel to the state highways. Together, the river and railroad tracks restrict east-west travel in the southern portion of the county.

State highways in Butte County are operated by Caltrans and are conventional highways, with the exception of several segments in the Chico and Oroville areas that are designated freeways. Butte County is not served regionally by an interstate freeway. The county is served by three major highways. State Route 99 travels north-south, connecting Butte County with Yuba City and Sacramento to the south, and Red Bluff to the northwest. State Route 70 splits from State Route 99 south of Marysville, traveling north to Oroville and continuing northeast toward Quincy. State Route 149 connects State Routes 99 and 70 and provides a connection between Chico and Oroville.

Other key routes serving Butte County are State Routes 162 and 32. State Route 162 is a mainly east-west highway that connects southern Butte County, including Oroville, with Interstate 5 in Glenn County. State Route 32 connects the Chico area to Interstate 5 in Glenn County and to Lassen County.

b. Roadway Capacity and Level of Service

The performance of roads and intersections is measured using level of service (LOS) grades that correspond to the quality of their traffic operations from a driver's perspective. The quality of operations is directly related to the delay drivers experience. LOS does not measure network performance from the perspective of transit riders, bicyclists, or pedestrians. Table CIR-1 presents the characteristics associated with each LOS grade. As shown in the table, LOS A, B, and C are considered satisfactory to most drivers, and LOS D through F represent increasing levels of delay and inconvenience to drivers. Table CIR-2 shows the specific capacities that tie to LOS thresholds on each of the roadway types in Butte County.

Since general plans are required to correlate the land use and CIRCULATION ELEMENTs, LOS expectations are used to determine the specific roadway types and sizes (e.g., functional classification and number of lanes). Providing LOS C or better conditions is often fiscally and/or physically infeasible. Further, accommodating this level of driving comfort has effects on roadway maintenance, energy consumption, and engine emissions that must be balanced against the County's environmental goals. The LOS policy in this CIRCULATION ELEMENT strives to balance desired traffic operations with other community goals and values, and LOS expectations may vary in the county.

TABLE CIR-1 PEAK-HOUR LEVEL OF SERVICE DESCRIPTIONS

LOS	Traffic Flow Quality
A	Free flow. Individual users are virtually unaffected by others in the traffic stream. Control delay at signalized intersections is minimal.
B	Stable flow, but the presence of other users in the traffic stream begins to be noticeable. The ability to maneuver within the traffic stream is only slightly restricted, and control delays at signalized intersections are not significant.
C	Stable flow, but the beginning of the range of flow in which the operation of individual users becomes significantly affected by interactions with others in the traffic stream.
D	High density but stable flow.
E	Operating conditions at or near capacity level.
F	Forced or breakdown flow.

TABLE CIR-1 PEAK-HOUR LEVEL OF SERVICE DESCRIPTIONS	
LOS	**Traffic Flow Quality**
Source: Highway Capacity Manual (HCM) 2000.* Transportation Research Board, Washington, D.C.*While newer versions of the HCM are available, the HCM 2000 version is still applicable and used in Butte County to maintain consistency when comparing operations over a period of time by using the same methodologies.	

It is also worthwhile to note that the volume thresholds used to determine LOS are not uniform throughout the region. For example, the City of Oroville 2030 General Plan uses substantially higher volume thresholds for determining LOS on arterial roadways than those summarized in Table CIR-2. As a result, the two documents could report two different LOS values on the same segment.

c. Existing Level of Service

Currently, the following regional roadway segments in Butte County operate with a peak-hour volume beyond capacity (LOS F):

- State Route 32 from East Avenue to W. Sacramento Avenue
- State Route 32 from W. Sacramento Avenue to W. 1st Street
- State Route 32 from W. 1st Street to W. 5th Street
- State Route 99 from Durham-Pentz Road to Skyway
- State Route 162 from Olive Highway to Lower Wyandotte Road
- State Route 162 from Lower Wyandotte Road to Foothill Boulevard

In addition, a number of other segments of highways and important county roadways operate with volumes in the LOS D and E range during the PM peak hour.

TABLE CIR-2 PEAK-HOUR LOS VOLUME THRESHOLD BY FACILITY TYPE

Facility Type	A	B	C	D	E	F
Minor 2-Lane Highway	0–90	91–200	201–680	681–1,410	1,411–1,740	>1,741
Major 2-Lane Highway/ Expressway	0–120	121–290	291–790	791–1,600	1,601–2,050	>2,051
4-Lane, Multi- Lane Highway/ Expressway	0–1,070	1,071–1,760	1,761–2,530	2,531–3,280	3,281–3,650	>3,651
2-Lane Arterial	–	–	0–970	971–1,760	1,761–1,870	>1,871
4-Lane Arterial, Undivided	–	–	0–1,750	1,751–2,740	2,741–2,890	>2,891
4-Lane Arterial, Divided	–	–	0–1,920	1,921–3,540	3,541–3,740	>3,741
6-Lane Arterial, Divided	–	–	0–2,710	2,711–5,320	5,321–5,600	>5,601
3-Lane Arterial, 1-Way Roadway	–	–	0–1,310	1,311–2,060	2,061–2,170	>2,171
2-Lane Freeway	0–1,110	1,111–2,010	2,011–2,880	2,881-3,570	3,571–4,010	>4,011

TABLE CIR-2 PEAK-HOUR LOS VOLUME THRESHOLD BY FACILITY TYPE						
Facility Type	**A**	**B**	**C**	**D**	**E**	**F**
2-Lane Freeway + Auxiliary Lane	0–1,410	1,411–2,550	2,551–3,640	3,641–4,490	4,491–5,035	>5,036
3-Lane Freeway	0–1,700	1,701–3,080	3,081–4,400	4,401–5,410	5,411–6,060	>6,061
3-Lane Freeway + Auxiliary Lane	0–2,010	2,011–3,640	3,641–5,180	5,181–6,350	6,351–7,100	>7,101
4-Lane Freeway	0–2,320	2,321–4,200	4,201–5,950	5,951–7,280	7,281–8,140	>8,141
Major 2-Lane Collector	–	–	0–550	551–1,180	1,181–1,520	>1,521
Source: Highway Capacity Manual 2000. Transportation Research Board, Washington, D.C.						

d. Vehicle Miles of Travel

As population, workers, and visitors increase in the county over time, more driving will occur. While some of this driving is inevitable given the long distances between destinations, actions can be taken by the County to concentrate growth within and near urban areas to help reduce the length of trips and to increase the viability of walking, bicycling, or taking transit. For example, the developed communities depicted in Figure LU-6 are areas with increased potential for reduced vehicle miles traveled (VMT) because land uses can be located near enough to support walking or biking as a viable mode of transportation.

VMT reduction is a specific goal in California with laws that connect VMT reduction to the State's greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction goals and other objectives, including the encouragement of public transit, infill development, and promotion of active transportation for public health. Though Butte County recognizes the importance of these objectives, the agricultural and rural land use nature with wide spaces between destinations limits the potential for VMT and GHG reduction through public transit or large mixed-use development projects.

VMT can be measured with a variety of methods and using multiple metrics; this plan relies on VMT estimates and forecasts from the BCAG RTP/SCS travel demand model using the three metrics shown in Figure CIR-2 to assess planning goals and environmental impacts.

Figure CIR-2: VMT Metric Definition and Visualization

Metric	Definition	Visualization
Total VMT	All vehicle trips (i.e., passenger and commercial vehicles, but excluding heavy trucks) assigned on the network within a specific geographic boundary (i.e., model wide, regionwide, citywide). Vehicle volume on each link is multiplied by link distance to calculate the total VMT.	

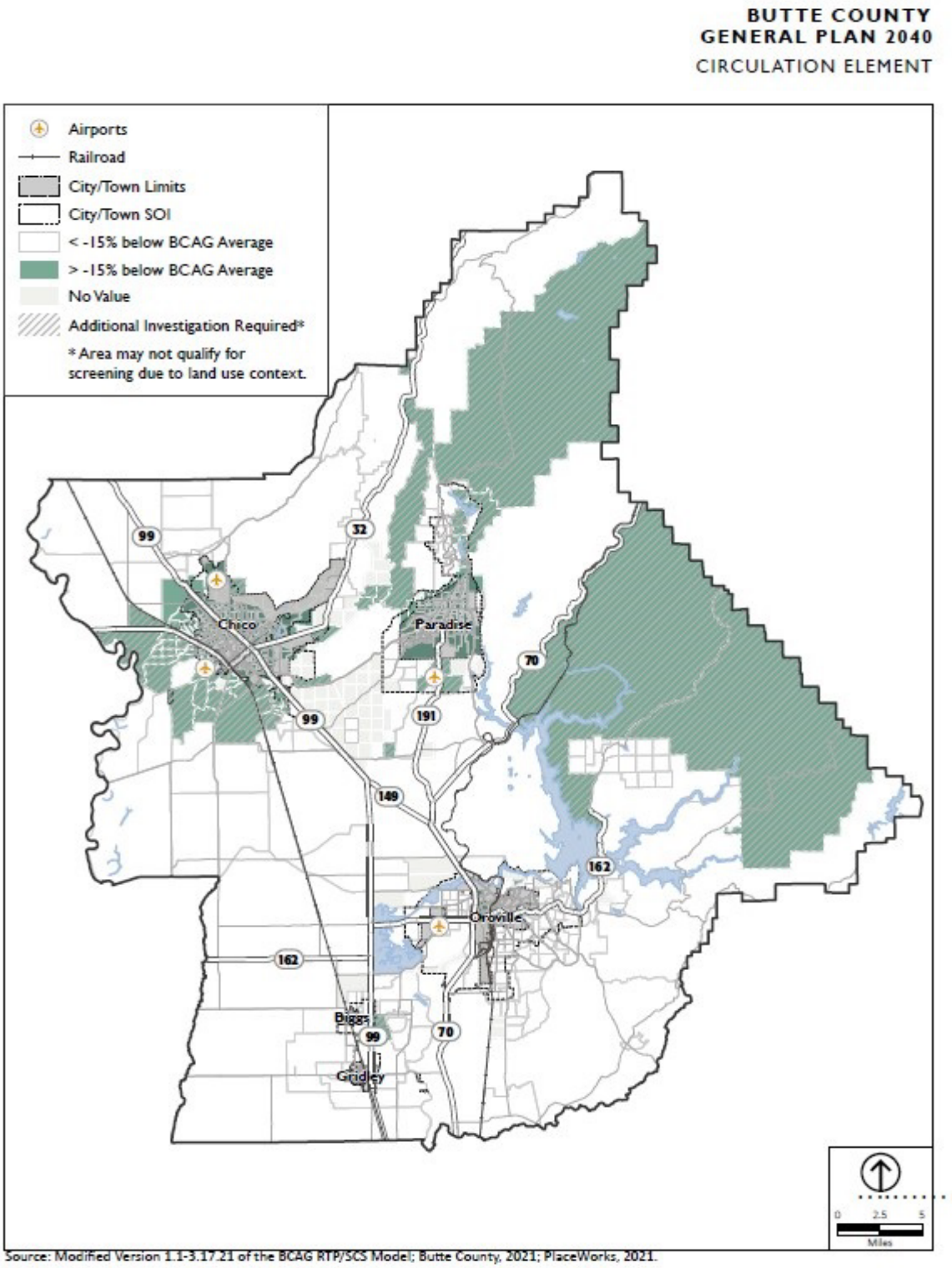
Home-based VMT per resident	All automobile (i.e., passenger cars and light-duty trucks) vehicle trips that start or end at the home are traced, but nonhome-based trips made by residents elsewhere on the network are excluded.
Home-based work VMT per employee	All automobile trips in both directions between home and work are counted.





VMT tends to increase as land use density decreases because lower density means that buildings are further apart and distances to services are beyond a comfortable walking distance. Without convenient transit, people use their cars more often, which increases VMT. This pattern is visible in the mapping of home-based VMT per resident shown in Figure CIR-3. VMT patterns are somewhat similar for employment-related land uses shown in Figure CIR-4, although the type of employment may distort the pattern, because higher-wage employment in land-use-efficient areas may attract long-distance commuters. These figures map VMT performance of individual traffic analysis zones (TAZ) in Butte County based on the BCAG model in Figure CIR-2. In general, the green zones are those where existing development generates VMT at levels at least 15 percent lower than the regional average.

FIGURE CIR-3 DAILY HOME-BASED VMT PER RESIDENT COMPARISON TO REGIONAL AVERAGE

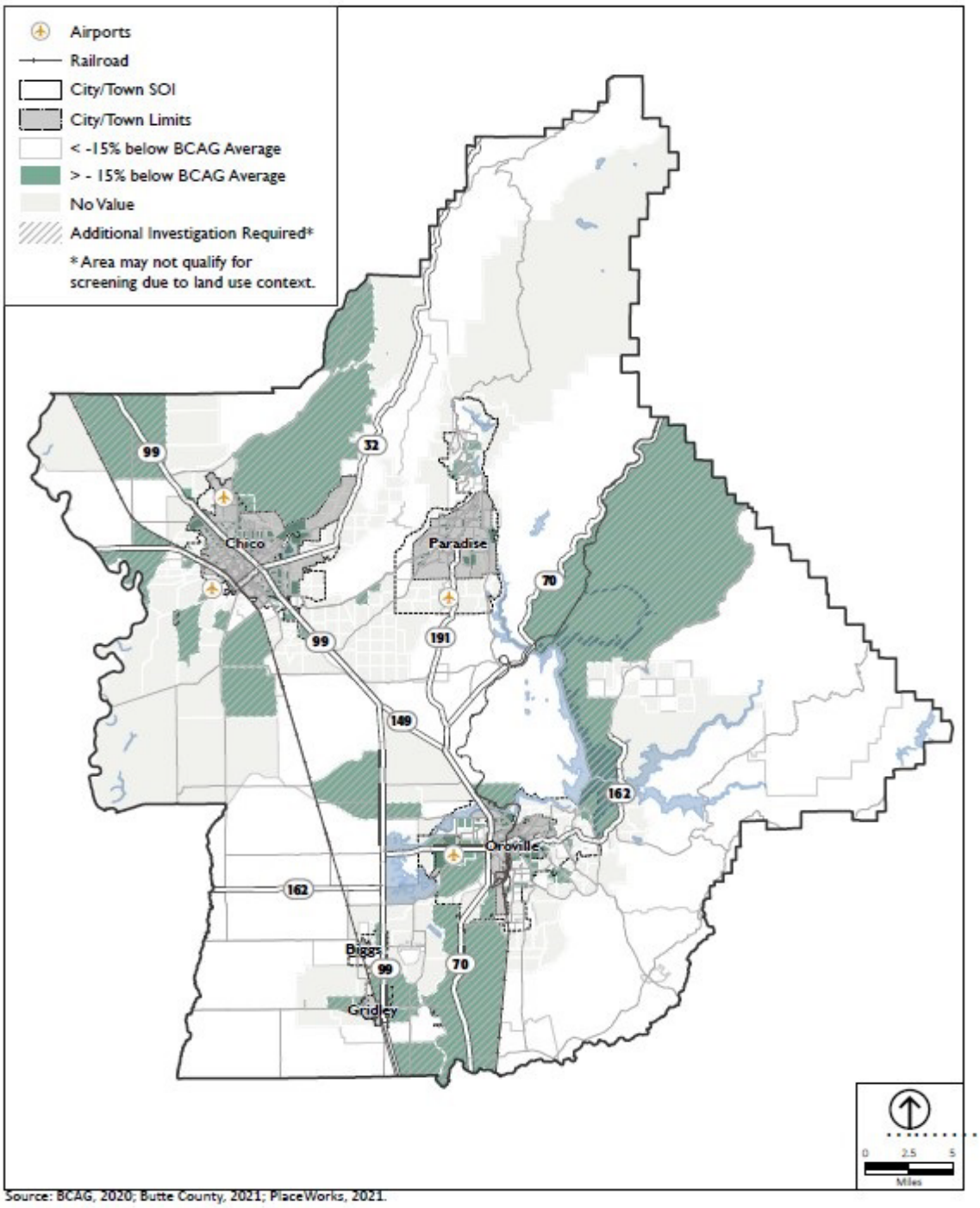


Source: Modified Version 1.1-3.17.21 of the BCAG RTP/SCS Model; Butte County, 2021; PlaceWorks, 2021.

FIGURE CIR-3

DAILY HOME-BASED VMT PER RESIDENT COMPARISON TO REGIONAL AVERAGE

FIGURE CIR-4 DAILY HOME-BASED WORK VMT PER RESIDENT COMPARISON TO REGIONAL AVERAGE



Source: BCAG, 2020; Butte County, 2021; PlaceWorks, 2021.

FIGURE CIR-4
DAILY-HOME BASED WORK VMT PER EMPLOYEE COMPARISON TO REGIONAL AVERAGE

2. Public Transit System

The automobile is the primary mode of travel in Butte County, similar to most rural areas in California, but the RTP, this Butte County General Plan, and the general plans of local jurisdictions support a balanced transportation system that incorporates transit, bicycling, walking, and other modes of travel beyond the private automobile. Butte Regional Transit (B-Line) provides fixed route bus and paratransit services to Chico, Oroville, Paradise, Gridley, Biggs, and the unincorporated county. The B-Line intercity buses connect Chico, Oroville, Paradise, Gridley, and Biggs as well as two tribal Rancherias and casinos. For seniors and individuals with a disability, there are also a number of service providers and social service agencies that provide door-to- door service. Additional services that are open to the general public include Glenn Ride, which provides transportation from Chico to Glenn County; North Valley Shuttle, which provides service between Chico, Paradise, Oroville, and the Sacramento International Airport; and Greyhound and Amtrak bus lines that provide scheduled service to and from the Butte County area.

3. Bicycle System

Butte County adopted the Butte County Bicycle Plan in 2011, which was developed to encourage bicycling in the county's unincorporated areas by connecting local communities, parks, and other recreational areas with bicycle facilities. The Plan identifies the following classifications of bicycle facilities:

- **Class I Bike Paths** are designated for exclusive use by both bicycles and pedestrians, which are separated from, but usually adjacent to, roadways.
- **Class II Bike Lanes** usually consist of one-way lanes adjacent to the traffic lane on either side of the roadway that provide for the exclusive and semi exclusive use of bicycles within the road travel way. These facilities are intended for the exclusive use of bicycles where they are separated from the motor vehicle lane by a painted white stripe and designated with signs and permanent pavement markings. In rural areas, bike lanes are located at the roadway shoulder, which is also utilized by pedestrian traffic.
- **Class III Bike Routes** may be located on roadway facilities with sufficient width for shared motor vehicle and bicycle usage and are usually only designated by signs or permanent pavement markings indicating the route and shared use.
- **Class IV Bikeways** are not in the Butte County Public Works specifications or the County Bicycle Plan, but were introduced by the Protected Bikeways Act of 2014 (Assembly Bill 1193, Ting, Chapter 495). This legislation established Class IV Bikeways for California and required Caltrans, in cooperation with local agencies, to establish design criteria for separated bikeways.[1] A Class IV Bikeway (separated bikeway) is for the exclusive use of bicycles and includes a physical separation between the bikeway and the vehicular traffic. The separation may include, but is not limited to, grade separation, flexible posts, inflexible physical barriers, or on-street parking.[2]



A Class I bike path near Chico. Photo courtesy of Kate Leyden, General Plan 2030 Citizens Advisory Committee member.

Existing bicycle facilities in unincorporated Butte County include the following:

- Class I, Class II, and Class III bikeways in the unincorporated areas around Chico.

- Class I and II bike lanes in the unincorporated area around Oroville.
- A Class II bike lane running through the Durham area.
- A Class I bike path running through Palermo.

4. Pedestrian System

Most pedestrian facilities within the urban areas of unincorporated Butte County consist of sidewalk facilities or paved shoulders. Where sidewalks exist, they are maintained by the County and are gradually being updated to meet County and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards as part of the County's Capital Improvement Program.

5. Aviation System

Air transportation in Butte County is served by a number of private and public airfields and heliports serving general aviation and agricultural users. Most of these are small fields for private use. Commercial flights to distant or out-of-state destinations are available at the Sacramento International Airport, about 60 miles south of Oroville.

The major aviation facilities in Butte County include:

- **Chico Municipal Airport.** This is the largest and busiest airport in Butte County. It is owned and operated by the City of Chico and accommodates business enterprise, repair service, small package or courier service, agricultural activities, medical emergency service, search-and-rescue service, pilot training, and recreational and tourism activities. The airport has two paved runways, and the majority of take-offs and landings are by private, general aviation aircraft, California Department of Forestry and US Forest Service aircraft, corporate charter flights, and medical deliveries.
- **Oroville Municipal Airport.** This airport is owned and operated by the City of Oroville. It is the second-largest airport and serves the south county area. The airport's two paved runways serve general aviation aircraft and business jets.
- **Paradise Skypark Airport.** This airport is privately owned and operated with one runway. It is an important regional base for skydiving activities.
- **Ranchaero Airport.** This airport is privately owned and operated with one runway. Flight instruction makes up a large portion of its daily operations.

The LAND USE ELEMENT of this General Plan provides a discussion of the Butte County Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan for areas around these major airports.

6. Rail

The Union Pacific Railroad Company maintains approximately 100 miles of railroad tracks in Butte County. Union Pacific provides transportation services to manufacturing industries, lumber mills, quarries, and agricultural producers. Passenger rail service is provided by Amtrak with a station in Chico.

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[1] Design Information Bulletin Number 89-01 CLASS IV BIKEWAY GUIDANCE (Separated Bikeways / Cycle Tracks. 2018. https://dot.ca.gov/-/media/dot-media/programs/design/documents/dib-89-01_kf- a11y.pdf.

[2] Design Information Bulletin Number 89-01 CLASS IV BIKEWAY GUIDANCE (Separated Bikeways / Cycle Tracks. 2018. https://dot.ca.gov/-/media/dot-media/programs/design/documents/dib-89-01_kf- a11y.pdf.

B. Roadway Functional Classifications and Standards

Butte County's roadways can be described in terms of a hierarchy based on their functional classification and their classification as either urban or rural roads. The County's roadway hierarchy encompasses freeways, highways, expressways, arterials, collectors, and local roads, each of which is described below.

1. Urban and Rural Freeways

Freeways are intended to serve interregional travel. They provide no access to adjacent properties, but are fed traffic from collector and arterial roadways by access ramps at interchanges. Freeways provide connections to other regional highways and are capable of carrying heavy traffic volumes. Butte County has the following three segments of four-lane, limited-access freeway or expressway:

- State Route 70 between 0.4 mile south of State Route 162 and State Route 149.
- State Route 99 between State Route 149 and Neal Road.
- State Route 99 between Southgate Lane and 1 mile north of Eaton Road.

2. Urban and Rural Highways

Urban and rural highways are used as primary connections between major traffic generators or as primary links in State and national highway networks. Such routes often have sections of many miles through rural environments without traffic control interruptions. Six State Routes serve as interregional highways in Butte County. These highways, which provide the primary access through the county, include State Routes 32, 149, 162, and 191 as well as sections of State Routes 70 and 99.

Generally, urban and rural highways provide some local access to parcels. In Butte County, a portion of State Route 99 provides local access in Gridley. Moreover, portions of State Route 162 serve as a "main street" in the City of Oroville.



Rural roadway in Butte County. Photo courtesy of the Butte County Department of Development Services.

3. Urban and Rural Expressways

Expressways are high-speed facilities with limited access from adjacent development. Expressways provide relatively high-speed connections, but with limited access compared to a conventional highway. The Skyway between Chico and Paradise is an example of an expressway in Butte County.

4. Urban Roadway Classes

a. Urban Arterials

Urban arterial roadways are fed by local and collector roads and provide intracity circulation and connection to regional roadways. They can be further divided into major and minor facilities. Although their primary purpose is to move traffic, arterial roadways often provide access to adjacent properties, especially in commercial areas. Examples of urban arterials include East Avenue in Chico and Lincoln Boulevard in Oroville.

b. Urban Collectors

Urban collector roadways are intended to collect traffic from local roadways and carry it to roads higher in the hierarchy. Collector roads also serve adjacent properties. Ceres Avenue, which connects residential streets with major arterials like East Avenue in Chico, is an example of an urban collector.

c. Urban Local Roads

Urban local roadways are intended to serve adjacent properties only. They are intended to carry very little, if any, traffic from outlying areas and generally have low volumes. The urban local roads in many cities and communities in Butte County are laid out in a grid system, which provides for greater connectivity and dispersion onto a wider selection of roadways.

5. Rural Roadway Classes

a. Rural Arterials

Rural arterial roadways generally provide for substantial intraregional travel. These facilities are often regional highways or freeways that link urban centers and significant population centers. The Colusa Highway west of Gridley is an example of a rural arterial.

b. Rural Collectors

Rural collector roads serve travel that is primarily intra-county rather than of regional or statewide importance. Travel distances on these roads are usually shorter than on arterial roadways. Examples of rural collectors include West Biggs-Gridley Road, which connects Biggs and Gridley, and Pentz Road, which connects Paradise with State Route 70.

c. Rural Local Roads

Rural local roads primarily provide access to adjacent land and travel over relatively short distances. Examples include cul-de-sacs and minor local roads in rural residential areas like the small neighborhoods along East Gridley Road and in Concow.

C. Programmed, Planned and Proposed Improvements

Coordination between State and local transportation planning is key to the success of the Regional Transportation Plan. Many improvements are already programmed and planned for the Butte County roadway system by 2040.

The BCAG 2020-2040 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS) includes a number of planned capacity improvements, which are anticipated to receive funding by 2040. These improvements are summarized in Table CIR-3. Beyond the capacity-enhancing projects shown in Table CIR-3, the RTP anticipates funding for non- infrastructure projects—such as the Help Central Mobility Management Program for Butte 211 call center and supplemental Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) paratransit operations offered by Butte Regional Transit.

The funded BCAG RTP capacity improvement projects are also shown on the Circulation Map because they are reasonably foreseeable within the General Plan's planning horizon.

TABLE CIR-3 ROADWAY CAPACITY ENHANCEMENTS IN BCAG's 2020–2040 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Roadway	Planned Improvement
Central House Road Bridge	Replace the existing 1-lane bridge with a new 2-lane bridge
State Route 70	New passing lanes between Palermo Road and the Ophir Road/ Pacific Heights intersection
State Route 70	New passing lanes between Gridley Road and the Yuba County line
Bruce Road Bridge	Replace the existing 2-lane bridge with a new 4-lane bridge
Guynn Road Bridge	Replace the existing 1-lane bridge with a new 2-lane bridge
Bruce Road	Widen to four lanes between State Route 32 and Skyway
Commerce Court	Extend the existing Commerce Court to Park Avenue via Westfield Lane
E 20th Street	Widen to four lanes between Forest Avenue and Bruce Road
Eaton Road	Widen and extend Eaton Road to four lanes from Hicks Lane to Manzanita and construct a new bridge at Sycamore Creek Tributary
Esplanade	Widen to four lanes between Nord Highway and Shasta Avenue
Mariposa Avenue	Construct a new two-lane connection from Glenshire Lane to Eaton Road
Notre Dame Boulevard	Construct a new two-lane roadway from Little Chico Creek to E 20th Street and construct a new bridge over Little Chico Creek
Midway	Widen to four lanes between Park Avenue and Hagan Lane

Note: Since the adoption of the BCAG 2020-2040 RTP/SCS in December 2020, many of these projects are in various stages of implementation.

It should be noted that Butte County General Plan 2040 land use designations, as well as specific Chico Area Greenline policy, do not allow or contemplate significant additional growth in the region west of the Southgate intersection at State Route 99. However, on March 14, 2000, the Board directed that the CIRCULATION ELEMENT include recommended alignments in the BCAG State Route 99/Southgate Interchange and Circulation Study, which include the Southgate connection to Midway and an extension of Speedway Avenue to the State Route 99 frontage road for right-of-way preservation, and a policy statement regarding the preservation of agricultural viability in the project area. The General Plan Circulation Map, which is shown in Figures CIR-5A and CIR-5B, reflects these connections with the intent to provide circulation connectivity, but not to facilitate development in this area.

Similarly, Figure CIR-5A includes the Rio d'Oro Specific Plan roadway master plan for right-of-way preservation, although the Plan isn't anticipated to be developed during the General Plan 2040 planning period. The Rio d'Oro Specific Plan provides the land use framework for the development of a 689-acre site in south central Butte County with a mix of parks, open space, retail, housing, and public service uses.

Table CIR-4 lists potential roadway capital improvements identified for right-of-way preservation purposes.

Figures CIR-5A and CIR-5B display all the roadway improvements listed in Tables CIR-3 and CIR-4, as well as the roadways associated with the Rio d'Oro Specific Plan. While only the RTP/SCS improvements listed in Table CIR-3 have identified funding, it is the intent of this CIRCULATION ELEMENT that funds be identified to construct all of the improvements reflected for 2040. However, it should be noted that with limited funding and resources, the County must balance the need for infrastructure with the cost and prioritize projects appropriately.

FIGURE CIR-5A FUTURE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

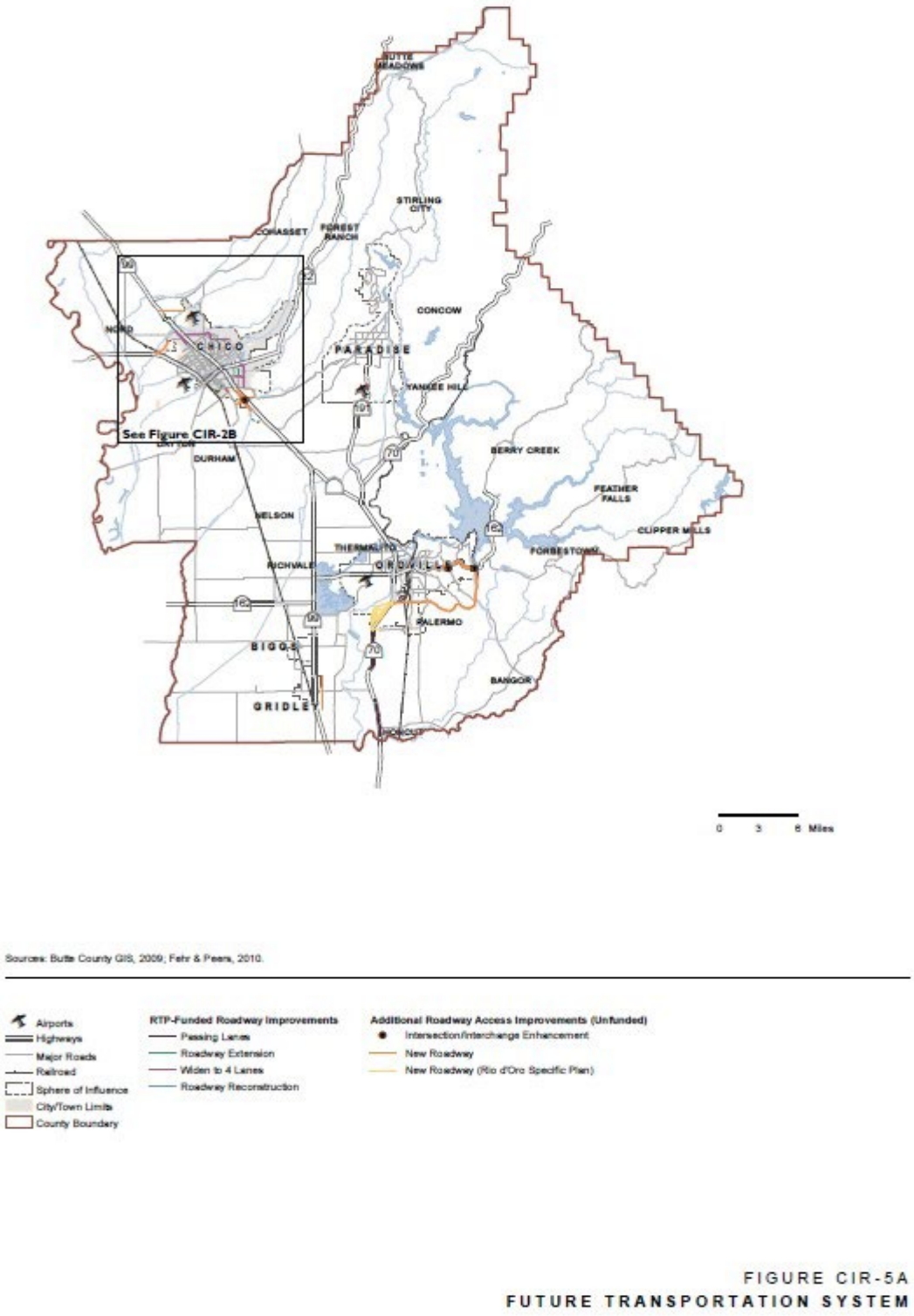


FIGURE CIR-5A
FUTURE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

FIGURE CIR-5B FUTURE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM – CHICO

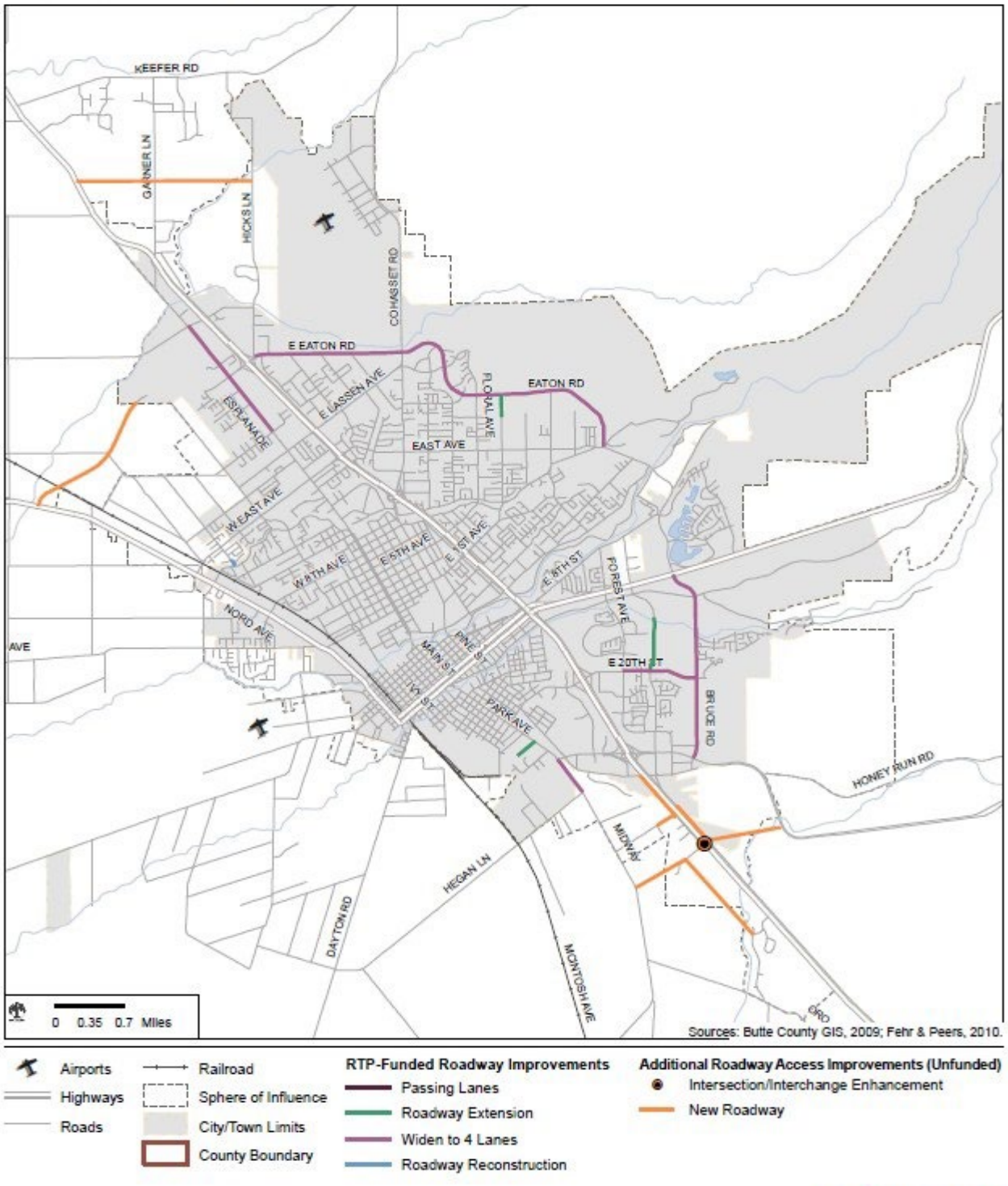


FIGURE CIR-5B
FUTURE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM - CHICO

TABLE CIR-4 POTENTIAL CAPITAL UPGRADES INDENTIFIED FOR RIGHT-OF-WAY PRESERVATION	
Roadway	**Proposed Improvement**
State Route 162	Improve State Route 162 between Oroville city limits and Miners Ranch Road. Improvements to be made at this location may include shoulder widening, additional lanes, curve connections, turn pockets, or other improvements to be identified through further analysis.
State Route 162	Construct intersection improvements at State Route 162 intersections with Oroville Quincy Highway and Miners Ranch Road.
Kittyhawk Drive	Construct extension from State Route 99 to Hicks Lane.
Speedway Avenue	Construct extension to Entler Avenue.
Ophir Road, Lower Wyandotte Road and Miners Ranch Road	Construct intersection improvements to provide an alterne route to State Route 162 and Lake Oroville.
East Gridley Bypass	Construct new roadway to bypass slow traffic in Gridley.

D. Goals, Policies, and Actions

Goal CIR-1 **Promote intergovernmental communication and cooperation concerning transportation-related issues.**

Policies

CIR-P1.1 Circulation capital improvement plans shall be jointly coordinated with the respective municipalities and the Butte County Association of Governments.

CIR-P1.2 The improvements of major travel corridors to Interstate 5 for the movement of goods and services to and from the interstate shall be coordinated with State, County, and local agencies.

CIR-P1.3 Transportation planning within the municipalities' spheres of influence shall consider the municipalities' land use and circulation plans, as appropriate.

Goal CIR-2 **Strive to operate and modify the transportation network to accommodate planned land use growth in a manner that reduces per-capita vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and related greenhouse gas and air pollutant emissions.**

Policies

CIR-P2.1 Carpooling shall be encouraged at major job and activity centers by providing information on how to participate in available private and public programs.

CIR-P2.2 Trip reduction among County employees shall be encouraged. Specific measures to encourage trip reduction could include providing subsidies, bicycle facilities, alternative work schedules, ridesharing, telecommuting and work-at-home programs, employee education, and preferential parking for carpools/vanpools.

CIR-P2.3 Home occupations shall be encouraged through streamlined application processes that are appropriate to the intensity and proposed uses of the home business.

CIR-P2.4 Employers shall be encouraged to provide transit subsidies, bicycle facilities, alternative work schedules, ridesharing, telecommuting and work-at-home programs, employee education and preferential parking for carpools/vanpools.

CIR-P2.5 Transportation corridors for renewable energy transmission and for new transit lines shall be preserved.

CIR-P2.6 The County shall incorporate "Complete Streets" policies that are designed and built to accommodate pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit users.

Actions

CIR-A2.1 Prepare, adopt, and maintain a VMT environmental threshold and development project screening process.

Goal CIR-3 **Design new neighborhoods and improve existing neighborhoods to accommodate and promote alternative modes of transportation.**

Policies

CIR-P3.1 The County supports improved connections to other regional transportation services, such as rail and regional/national bus lines, to connect Butte County communities with each other.

CIR-P3.2 A continuous, integrated, and accessible pedestrian network shall be provided in urbanized areas to encourage walking as a viable transportation mode and as a form of recreation and exercise.

CIR-P3.3 Travel modes shall be interconnected to form an integrated, coordinated, and balanced multimodal transportation system.



B Line bus transit service. Photo courtesy of the Butte County Department of Development Services.

CIR-P3.4 New development projects shall provide adequate pedestrian, bicycle, and multiuse facilities in a way that integrates circulation and recreational use, commensurate with the impacts of the project, local and regional plans, and consistent with surrounding development.

CIR-P3.5 New neighborhoods shall provide bike and pedestrian connectivity between streets.

CIR-P3.6 Arterial and collector streets shall be designed to enhance the integrity and cohesiveness of urban neighborhoods.

CIR-P3.7 Major residential development projects shall be designed with interconnected collector street patterns and short block lengths. Cul- de-sac and dead-end streets shall conform to County design standards.

CIR-P3.8 Public facilities shall be located and designed to allow for convenient access from public transit and/or bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

CIR-P3.9 Trees along urban streets shall be protected. If maintenance or upgrading requires tree removal, the trees shall be replaced.

Actions

CIR-A3.1 In conjunction with the Butte County Association of Governments, seek funding to develop a plan to support and promote rail service that will connect Butte County with other regions and connect Butte County communities with each other.

Goal CIR-4 **Promote a balanced and integrated public transit system to maximize efficient mobility that minimizes harm to people when traveling.**

Policies

CIR-P4.1 The County supports public transit as a viable and attractive alternative to the use of single occupant motor vehicles.

CIR-P4.2 The County supports improved public transit service to be determined through the public process to identify unmet needs and prioritize feasible solutions. Potential improvements could include serving an expanded geographic area, more frequent buses at key times of the day, and improved transit amenities such as bus shelters.

CIR-P4.3 The County supports public transportation programs that promote access to shopping, employment, education, health care, and recreation.

CIR-P4.4 The County encourages the Butte County Association of Governments to provide shuttles from local transit stations to special event centers.

CIR-P4.5 The County continues to support local Amtrak passenger services.

CIR-P4.6 New development projects in areas served by existing or planned transit shall provide fixed transit facilities such as bus shelters and pullouts, according to expected demand and in coordination with Butte Regional Transit.

Actions

CIR-A4.1 Support efforts by the Butte County Association of Governments to evaluate alternate sources of funding for public transit, such as advertising revenue from buses and bus shelters

Goal CIR-5 **Provide a continuous, integrated, and accessible bicycle system to encourage the use of the bicycle as a viable transportation mode and as a form of recreation and exercise.**

Policies

CIR-P5.1 Bicycle facilities shall be developed in accordance with the County's adopted Bicycle Master Plan.

CIR-P5.2 New bicycle routes and paths shall create a bicycle environment that minimizes harm when people ride.

CIR-P5.3 The bicycle system shall be integrated with other transportation modes by connecting bicycle routes and transit stops, providing secure bicycle parking facilities and supporting efforts to expand accommodation of bicycles aboard buses.

CIR-P5.4 Transportation service providers shall be encouraged to incorporate bicycle storage facilities into bus stops and rail stations.

CIR-P5.5 Construction or expansion of major arterials shall incorporate Class II bicycle facilities whenever feasible. Class III Bike routes will be considered where appropriate.

CIR-P5.6 Residential development projects shall incorporate internal circulation networks that encourage bicycle use and that connect to the external bicycle circulation system.

CIR-P5.7 Owners of apartment complexes and major commercial, office, industrial, and educational sites shall provide plentiful, convenient, and centrally located bicycle parking facilities.

CIR-P5.8 All County facilities and park-and-ride lots shall provide appropriate bicycle amenities, including bicycle racks and storage facilities.

Actions

CIR-A5.1 Periodically update the Bicycle Master Plan.

CIR-A5.2 Continue to utilize BCAG's GIS mapping database of current and proposed bicycle routes and facilities countywide.

CIR-A5.3 Pursue sources of funding to improve and maintain the existing bicycle system and to plan and construct new bicycle facilities that encourage commuting and recreation.

Goal CIR-6 **Support a balanced and integrated road and highway network that maximizes the efficient mobility of people and goods in a manner that limits harm to people when traveling.**

Policies

CIR-P6.1 The County shall strive to maintain a level of service (LOS) D or better during the peak hours for County-maintained roads within the unincorporated areas of the county but outside municipalities' spheres of influence (SOI). Within a municipality's SOI, the County shall strive to meet the municipality's LOS goal. However, the County considers LOS E or F to be acceptable on the following roadways:

- State Route 32 — East Avenue to W. Sacramento Avenue
- State Route 32 — W. Sacramento Avenue to W. 1st Street
- State Route 32 — W. 1st Street to W. 5th Street

- State Route 70 — Grand Avenue to State Route 149
- State Route 99 — State Route 149 to Durham - Pentz Road
- State Route 99 — Durham - Pentz Road to Skyway
- State Route 99 — East 20th to State Route 32
- State Route 162 — Larkin Road to State Route 70
- Skyway — State Route 99 to Notre Dame Boulevard

CIR-P6.2 Parcels adjacent to highways and significant roadways shall have only limited access to these facilities to maintain traffic flow and minimize potential collisions. Development shall consider access from the lowest road classification where available and feasible.

CIR-P6.3 Street improvements within the sphere of influence of an incorporated municipality shall conform to the street standards of that municipality.

CIR-P6.4 Major new development projects and subdivisions, as determined by the Department of Development Services, as well as other projects that meet the thresholds under the County's Traffic Impact Study Guidelines, shall prepare and implement traffic studies to assess and mitigate adverse impacts to local and regional transportation facilities.

Goal CIR-7 **Develop a transportation system that is consistent with and will support existing and proposed patterns and densities of land use and that encourages efficient land utilization.**

Policies

CIR-P7.1 Rights-of-way needed for planned roads or expansion of existing roads, including facilities in the State highway system, shall be reserved, and land uses that would preclude development of such rights-of-way shall be prohibited.

CIR-P7.2 Existing road capacity available within the County road system shall be used to serve future development unless construction of a new road will enhance circulation opportunities.

CIR-P7.3 New roads shall be located to encourage development near existing highway corridors and existing rural community centers.

Goal CIR-8 **Provide an adequate road system that is within the County's ability to finance and maintain.**

Policies

CIR-P8.1 Roadway improvement or maintenance projects shall be prioritized as follows:

a. **Priority One: Urgent Projects.** Projects of an urgent nature that are clearly needed to protect the health and safety of the traveling public, such as imminent bridge or road bed failure. Sample project: reconstruction of a storm-damaged road bed where such damage has severely restricted traffic and access.

b. **Priority Two: Safety Projects.** Projects that are intended to reduce the number and severity of accidents along a particular road segment. Sample projects: a change in road alignment where an alternative is needed to reduce high accident rates, traffic signals, stop signs, crosswalks, and other traffic- engineering decisions.

c. **Priority Three: Reconstruction/Maintenance Projects.** Projects that involve ongoing maintenance, rehabilitation, and reconstruction requirements to preserve the existing bridge and road network. Sample project: routine maintenance to prevent structural damage (as opposed to improvements in surface rideability).

d. **Priority Four: Capacity Improvements.** Projects that involve operational improvements to the existing road network that increase service efficiency and capacity. Sample projects: widening of an arterial road to increase capacity and Transportation System Management projects.

e. **Priority Five: New Construction Projects.** Projects that involve construction of a new bridge or road. New County construction projects shall receive higher priority when they accommodate development in locations within reasonable proximity to centers of employment and shopping facilities and that encourage the conservation of energy in the transportation sector. Sample project: construction of an urban area collector street.

CIR-P8.2 If there is no regional or local traffic impact fee that applies, approval of new development projects may be conditioned to require payment of the project's proportionate share of the cost of transportation improvements necessary to serve the project.

CIR-P8.3 Urban and rural arterials and collectors shall be considered major thoroughfares for the purpose of collecting appropriate fees allowed under Section 66484 of the Subdivision Map Act.[3]

CIR-P8.4 As funding is available, prioritize improvements and resolve maintenance, access, erosion, and dust issues on rural gravel roads that provide access for residential areas.

Actions

CIR-A8.1 Pursue all available sources of funding and protect existing sources of funding for the development, improvement, and maintenance of the existing roadway system.

CIR-A8.2 Continue to regularly update the County's traffic impact fee program to implement County roadway improvements.

CIR-A8.3 Continue to work with municipalities to develop joint traffic impact fees within their spheres of influence.

CIR-A8.4 Encourage the Butte County Association of Governments to work with all local agencies to create a funding plan and regional traffic impact fee for necessary improvements to the State highway system.

Goal CIR-9 Provide a circulation system that supports efficient mobility.

Policies

CIR-P9.1 All new road systems, both public and private, shall provide for efficient evacuation of residents and adequate access to fire and other emergency services by providing at least two means of emergency access to an interconnected collector system. New road systems will include reduction and maintenance of roadside vegetation.

CIR-P9.2 New development projects shall include safe routes to school where appropriate.

Actions

CIR-A9.1 Work with federal and State funding sources to create a funding plan to implement improvements for emergency access, evacuation, fire protection, public safety, water quality

protection, and circulation and work with appropriate agencies to identify and prioritize projects.

CIR-A9.2 Continue to seek funding for the Active Transportation Program biannually or as funding is available.

CIR-A9.3 Create a traffic-calming program that will develop policies, methodologies, and standards for speed- and traffic safety-related issues in new development projects and existing neighborhoods.

Goal CIR-10 Facilitate the mobility of Butte County residents with special mobility needs.

Policies

CIR-P10.1 The County encourages the Butte County Association of Governments to provide transit services that meet the needs of youth and seniors, by improving connections to schools, parks, libraries, social services, medical offices, and shopping.

CIR-P10.2 All new development projects shall meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

CIR-P10.3 Pedestrian facilities shall be designed and constructed to be accessible to all users appropriate for these facilities.

Goal CIR-11 Promote effective and efficient use of existing and future air facilities.

Policies

CIR-P11.1 Private airstrips and landing fields shall be located outside of flight paths to and from existing airports so that they do not present a hazard or annoyance to neighboring areas.

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[3] Section 66484 of the Subdivision Map Act allows local ordinances to require payment of fees as a condition of approval for developments. These fees are allowed to defray "the actual or estimated cost of constructing bridges over waterways, railways, freeways and canyons, or constructing major thoroughfares."

10 CONSERVATION AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT



Gray Lodge Wildlife Area. Photo courtesy of Lynne Pillus, Butte County Department of Water & Resource Conservation.

State law requires that a General Plan include both a Conservation Element and an Open Space Element. The Butte County General Plan 2030 combines these two elements into a single Conservation and Open Space Element that addresses their similar and overlapping concerns.

As required by State law, this Element addresses the conservation, development, and utilization of natural resources, including forests, soils, rivers and other waters, fisheries, wildlife, minerals, water, and hydrology. This Element also addresses the protection of cultural resources, including archaeological resources, historic resources, and Native American cultural resources. The Government Code also identifies a series of six types of open space which must be addressed in the General Plan. Most of these types of open space are covered in this Conservation and Open Space Element, while a few are covered elsewhere in this General Plan. Table COS-1 lists all six types and tells where they are addressed in this General Plan.

TABLE COS-1 GOVERNMENT COE SPACE CLASSIFICATIONS	
Category	**Addressed In:**
Open Space for the Preservation of Natural Resources	
• Plant and animal habitat areas • Rivers, streams, lakes and their banks • Watershed lands • Areas required for ecological and other scientific study purposes	• COS Section IV (page 10-20) • WATER RESOURCES ELEMENT (page 8-1) • WATER RESOURCES ELEMENT (page 8-1) • COS Section IV (page 10-20)
Open Space Used for the Managed Production of Resources	
• Agricultural lands and rangelands • Forest and timberlands • Mineral resource production areas	• AGRICULTURE ELEMENT (page 7-1) • COS Section V (page 10-33) • COS Section VI (page 10-36)
Open Space for Outdoor Recreation and Scenic Resources	
• Areas of outstanding historic or cultural value • Parks and other areas used for recreation • Areas of outstanding scenic value • Scenic corridors, trails and links between different open space areas	• COS Section VIII (page 10-44) • PUB Section VI (page 12-13) • COS Section IX (page 10-53) • COS Section IX (page 10-53) • PUB Section VI (page 12-13)
Open Space for Public Health and Safety	
• Areas requiring special management or regulation because of risks presented by natural hazards such as steep slopes or flooding	• HEALTH AND SAFETY ELEMENT (page 11-1)
Open Space in Support of the Mission of Military Installations	
• Areas associated with military bases	• COS Section VII (page 10-41)
Open Space for the Protection of Native American Sacred Sites	
• Local tribal lands • Any Native American cultural sites	• COS Section VIII (page 10-44) • COS Section VIII (page 10-44)
Notes: COS = Conservation and Open Space Element. PUB = Public Facilities and Services Element.	

This Conservation and Open Space Element also prevents incompatible development and encroachment upon the Military Operations Areas (MOA's). Open space areas can simultaneously support agriculture, protect critical habitat and endangered species, and function as a buffer between active MOAs and neighboring residential land uses.

This Element also addresses air quality since clean air is an important natural resource and a vital component of a healthy environment.

To best serve the needs of Butte County residents and visitors, public input on issues related to Conservation and Open Space as it relates to the management of public lands is facilitated through the Coordinating Committee for consideration by the Board of Supervisors at scheduled public meetings.

This Element is divided into the following sections:

- Greenhouse Gases
- Energy
- Air Quality

- Biological Resources
- Timber Resources
- Mineral and Soil Resources
- Military Installations
- Cultural Resources
- Scenic Resources

Each of these components is divided into the following sections:

- **Background Information:** Provides background information about the various resources within Butte County. Expanded discussions about Butte County's resources are available in Chapters 8 (Recreation), 9 (Cultural Resources), 10 (Scenic Resources), 11 (Mineral Resources), 13 (Biological Resources), 14 (Energy) and 15 (Air Quality) of the Butte County General Plan 2030 Setting and Trends Report.
- **Goals, Policies and Actions:** Provides guidance to the County related to decisions affecting the resources addressed in this Element.

I. GREENHOUSE GASES

A. Background Information

Leading scientists around the world now agree that climate change is a reality and that human activities are disrupting the earth's climate by intensifying the greenhouse effect. A balance of naturally occurring gases in the atmosphere determines the earth's climate by trapping solar heat through a phenomenon known as the greenhouse effect. Greenhouse gases (GHGs) like carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, chlorofluorocarbons, and water vapor keep solar radiation from exiting our atmosphere. In a process very similar to the windows on a greenhouse, GHGs trap so much heat that the temperature within the earth's atmosphere is rising.

GHGs are emitted through both natural processes and human activities. Emissions from human activities, such as electricity production, motor vehicle use, and agriculture, are contributing to the concentration of GHGs in the atmosphere and have led to a trend of unnatural warming of the earth's climate, which is known as global warming. The climate and natural resources in California could be adversely affected by the global warming trend. Increased precipitation and sea level rise could increase coastal flooding, saltwater intrusion, and degradation of wetlands. Mass migration and/or loss of plant and animal species could also occur. Potential effects of global climate change that could adversely affect human health include, but are not necessarily limited to, more extreme heat waves and heat-related stress; an increase in climate-sensitive diseases; more frequent and intense natural disasters, such as flooding, hurricanes, and drought; and increased levels of air pollution.

Coping with climate change and reducing GHG emissions is ultimately part of the larger challenge of fostering sustainable communities. Climate change goals are most effectively accomplished when efforts are focused on integrating principles of sustainability within sectors such as transportation, buildings, ecosystems, and water systems. One way to integrate sustainability into a community is by creating compact, walkable development. Walkable, mixed-use communities provide their residents with retail and services within walking distance of their homes and workplaces, thereby reducing the need to make automobile trips and consequently, reducing GHG emissions.

California's climate change program began in 1988, when Assembly Bill (AB) 4420 directed State agencies to prepare a GHG inventory and study the impacts of climate change. Since then, California has adopted several laws to assess climate change, analyze GHG emissions and their effects, reduce emissions, and prepare for the impacts of climate change. Many of these laws and associated regulations affect local governments, although only some create specific requirements for individual communities. These laws and associated regulations include the following:

- **Executive Order S-03-05 and Assembly Bill 32: California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006.** In 2005, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger issued Executive Order S-03-05, which established the first statewide GHG reduction goals for California: reduce emissions to 2000 levels by 2010, reduce emissions to 1990 levels by 2020, and reduce emissions 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050.

  AB 32, the California Global Warming Solutions Act, was approved by the legislature and signed by Governor Schwarzenegger in 2006. The landmark legislation required the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to develop regulatory and market mechanisms to reduce GHG emissions to 1990 levels by 2020, codified in Executive Order S-03-05. AB 32 also directed CARB to identify early action items that could be quickly implemented, to develop a scoping plan to identify the most technologically feasible and cost-effective strategies to achieve the 2020 target, and to create and adopt regulations requiring major emitters to report and verify their emissions.

  The Climate Change Scoping Plan (Scoping Plan), adopted in 2008 and updated in 2014 and 2017, employs a variety of GHG reduction strategies that include direct regulations, alternative compliance mechanisms, incentives, voluntary actions, and market-based approaches like a cap-and-trade program. The plan identifies local governments as strategic partners to achieving the State goal and translates the reduction goal to a 15-percent reduction of "existing" emissions by 2020. Although "existing emission levels" is not formally defined by the Scoping Plan, State, regional, and local agencies interpreted it as referring to emissions occurring between 2005 and 2008.

- **Senate Bill 375: Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act of 2008.** In 2008, Senate Bill (SB) 375, the Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act, was adopted to connect the GHG emissions-reductions targets established in the 2008 Scoping Plan to local land use decisions that affect travel behavior. Its intent is to reduce GHG emissions from light-duty trucks and automobiles (excludes emissions associated with goods movement) by aligning regional long-range transportation plans, investments, and housing allocations to local land use planning to reduce VMT and vehicle trips. Specifically, SB 375 required CARB to establish GHG emissions-reduction targets for each of the 18 metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs). The Butte County Association of Governments (BCAG) is the MPO for Butte County and its jurisdictions. Pursuant to the recommendations of the Regional Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC), CARB adopted per-capita reduction targets for each of the MPOs rather than a total magnitude reduction target. The reduction targets for BCAG are 6-percent reduction in per-capita vehicle-related emissions for 2020 and 7 percent for 2035, relative to 2005 levels.
- **Executive Order B-30-15.** Executive Order B-30-15, signed April 29, 2015, sets a goal of reducing GHG emissions within California to 40 percent of 1990 levels by year 2030. Executive Order B-30-15 also directs CARB to update the Scoping Plan to quantify the 2030 GHG reduction goal for the State and requires State agencies to implement strategies to meet the interim 2030 goal as well as the long- term goal for 2050 in Executive Order S-03-05. It also requires the Natural Resources Agency to conduct triennial updates of the California adaption strategy to ensure climate change is accounted for in State planning and investment decisions.
- **Senate Bill 32 and Assembly Bill 197.** In September 2016, SB 32 and AB 197 were signed into law, making the Executive Order goal for year 2030 into a statewide mandated legislative target. AB 197 established a joint legislative committee on climate change policies and requires CARB to

prioritize direct emissions reductions rather than the market-based cap-and-trade program for large stationary, mobile, and other sources. Executive Order B-30-15 and SB 32 required CARB to prepare another update to the Scoping Plan to address the 2030 target for the state. On December 14, 2017, CARB adopted the 2017 Climate Change Scoping Plan Update (2017 Scoping Plan) to address the 2030 target for the state.

- **Executive Order B-55-18.** In 2018, Governor Brown issued Executive Order B- 55-18, which established an additional statewide goal of achieving carbon neutrality (no net GHG emissions) by 2045. Under this goal, any GHGs that are emitted by California must be fully offset by other activities by 2045. While this goal does not yet have the force of law, it does indicate the direction that the State is moving in and may be a reference point for future legislative action.

Other State-level climate action measures include Title 24 energy-efficiency standards for new and significantly renovated buildings, the Renewable Portfolio Standards, Clean Car Standards, Low Carbon Fuel Standard, and Innovative Clean Transit Regulations.

Butte County is committed to reduce its contribution to climate change. Because of the wide-ranging causes and effects of climate change, this General Plan addresses the issue in several elements. While the aim is to provide a framework for addressing atmosphere and climate change, the detailed policies and programs that address climate protection are located throughout the Butte County General Plan 2040.

B. Goals, Policies and Actions

Policies related to energy use and climate change are identified below and can also be found in the following elements:

- Land Use
- Agriculture
- Water Resources
- Circulation
- Health and Safety
- Public Facilities and Services

Goal COS-1	**Reduce greenhouse gas emissions to support the State's goal of carbon neutrality by 2045 by reducing emissions to 6.0 $MTCO_2e$ per person by 2030, 4.0 $MTCO_2e$ per person by 2040, and no more than 2.0 $MTCO_2e$ per person by 2050.**

Policies

COS-P1.1 Greenhouse gas emission impacts from proposed development projects shall be evaluated as required by the California Environmental Quality Act.

COS-P1.2 New development projects shall mitigate greenhouse gas emissions on-site or as close to the site as possible.

COS-P1.3 New development and reconstruction of existing development shall use sustainable building practices, including recycled-content construction materials, reusing materials, and donating or recycling construction debris.

COS-P1.4 New development should provide above-ground and natural stormwater facilities and use building designs and materials that promote groundwater recharge.

COS-P1.5 The County supports use of neighborhood electric vehicles (EVs), such as low-speed golf carts or other personal neighborhood EVs.

COS-P1.6 The County shall explore techniques to maximize carbon sequestration of the county's natural and working lands.

COS-P1.7 New development projects shall provide electric vehicle charging stations and prioritized parking for electric vehicles, hybrid vehicles, alternative fuel vehicles and carpools.

COS-P1.8 The County shall reduce emissions from disposal and decomposition of organic waste.

COS-P1.9 The County supports development of alternative technologies to derive fuel or energy from green waste and reduce air pollution by processing green waste.

Actions

COS-A1.1 Implement and update the Butte County Climate Action Plan as needed to meet State and local GHG reduction targets. The CAP shall include the following:

- A communitywide GHG emissions inventory.
- A revised business-as-usual forecast projection.
- GHG reduction benefits of State programs.
- A summary of the County's progress toward local GHG emissions reduction targets.
- A set of GHG reduction strategies and actions that, when quantified, achieve the reduction targets and continue emission reductions beyond 2040.
- A work program for the CAP.

COS-A1.2 Continue to update the County program to replace County fleet vehicles with the lowest emission technology vehicles, wherever possible, including landscaping and other equipment.

COS-A1.3 Coordinate with the Butte County Air Quality Management District on anti-idling programs that will reduce idling by heavy duty vehicles.

COS-A1.4 Cooperate with the school districts to develop school access plans that substantially reduce automobile trips to, and congestion surrounding, schools. Each District's School Access Plan could address necessary infrastructure improvements, potential funding sources, replacing older diesel buses with low or zero-emission vehicles, and mitigation fees to expand school bus service.

COS-A1.5 Seek funding for and opportunities to implement the Butte Plug- In Electric Vehicle (PEV) Readiness Plan to improve PEV charging infrastructure in the county, including identifying priority locations for siting public PEV charging infrastructure, creating guidelines for installing chargers, and removing barriers to PEV deployment caused by permitting, zoning, and/or building codes.

COS-A1.6 Continue to implement curbside organics and green waste collection services for residences and businesses in accordance with SB 1383, including green waste collection where curbside collection is not feasible in the near term.

COS-A1.7 Continue ongoing education programs about the importance of reusing, recycling, or responsibly disposing of unwanted green waste, including on agricultural land and green waste associated with forest residue.

Goal COS-2 Promote green building, planning, and businesses.

Policies

COS-P2.1 County staff shall work cooperatively with the municipalities to ensure consistent standards for green building codes and other methods to reduce greenhouse gas emissions throughout the county.

COS-P2.2 New development shall comply with Green Building Standards adopted by the California Building Standards Commission at the time of building permit application, including requirements about low- or no-toxicity building materials.

COS-P2.3 All new County buildings and major renovations designed for public access and/or primary workspace shall meet, at a minimum, LEED-Silver or equivalent and the County shall use these buildings to demonstrate green building practices to builders, developers, homeowners, and others. Minor buildings of an accessory nature that are not used as public spaces and that do not serve as a primary workspace are not required to meet LEED- Silver or equivalent, but shall implement practical building design, construction, and maintenance solutions as set forth under the LEED rating system or equivalent.

COS-P2.4 All new subdivisions and developments should meet green planning standards such as LEED for Neighborhood Design.

COS-P2.5 The County shall work with property owners and property management groups to increase overall building electrification and adoption of modern, efficient appliances in residential rental properties.

Actions

COS-A2.1 Develop and publicize a certified green business/institution program for the County. The program could include establishing standards for energy conservation, water conservation, waste reduction and pollution prevention; assisting businesses with understanding and achieving the standards; and recognizing businesses and institutions who meet the standards.

COS-A2.2 Develop and adopt incentives for the construction of green buildings, such as expedited permitting or reduced building fees, provided that building fee reductions are covered through outside funding sources, such as grants, and not from the General Fund.

COS-A2.3 Explore, as feasible, Building Code amendments requiring replacement of natural gas space and water heaters with electric models at end of life during the 2022 and successive Buildings Standards Code updates.

COS-A2.4 Identify and remove existing Code, permitting, or other County requirements that provide barriers to all-electric conversions of existing homes and businesses and consider incentives, such as permit streamlining or fee reductions, as feasible.

COS-A2.5 Promote and support opportunities for residents to use electric equipment, such as induction cooktops, to encourage transitioning from gas to electric appliances.

II. ENERGY

A. Background Information

Energy production, conservation and patterns of energy consumption are of growing importance to individuals, agencies, and jurisdictions. Energy price fluctuations in the late 1990s and increases in early 2001, combined with rolling blackouts and Public Safety Power Shutoffs, have led to a renewed interest in energy conservation and resilience.



One of two solar arrays that power the Butte County Administration Building. Photo courtesy of the Butte County Department of Development Services.

The majority of electrical power generation facilities in Butte County are hydroelectric projects. Many of the other facilities use mainly renewable technologies, including photovoltaics, fuel cells, landfill methane capture, biomass, and small cogeneration technologies. The County, in coordination with the Butte County Fire Safe Council, is currently exploring the feasibility of developing a privately operated biomass-to-hydrogen facility at the Neal Road Recycling and Waste Facility. Biomass is renewable organic material, such as brush trimmings or wood waste, that can be converted to energy. In addition to generating renewable energy, a biomass facility in Butte County could have many co-benefits, including reduction of wildfire fuels and increased fire safety.

The residential sector's energy demands often constitute the highest electricity sales in rural counties. Typically, the most important factors influencing residential energy consumption are the size of the house, the type of house (detached single-family or multi-family structure), the number of major appliances and the construction and siting of the structure. Residential energy needs are often fulfilled by electricity or a combination of gas and electricity. In Butte County, residential energy constituted 9 percent of total annual GHG emissions in 2019, while nonresidential energy constituted 4 percent of total annual GHG emissions.

The State of California requires local governments to address energy conservation and efficiency in new construction. The State Building Standard Code, including Title 24, applies to any new structures, additions to an existing structure, changes to the footprint of a structure, or changes to water and heating systems. In June 2001, amendments to Part 6, Title 24, of the State Administrative Code were enacted mandating more stringent conservation and efficiency requirements for new residential and non-residential construction. California updates the statewide Building Standards Code (Title 24), including energy efficiency standards, every three years. The next update, the 2022 standards, goes into effect on January 1, 2023. In Butte County, the Building Division of the Department of Development Services is responsible for enforcing all the provisions of Title 24.

Butte County has several opportunities to promote energy conservation and reduce energy consumption, mainly through enforcing construction standards and through its own operations. Butte County has already implemented many projects to reduce energy use, including solar energy programs on County facilities and land. Most notable is the Butte County Solar Energy System completed in August 2004. It is located at the Butte County Government Center on County Center Drive in Oroville. There are four separate arrays containing a total of 6,360 185-watt photovoltaic panels. The total project output is 997 kilowatts AC or 1.18 Megawatts DC. This system provides all the electrical energy needs for three County buildings. When this system became operational, it was the fifth-largest solar energy system in the United States and was among the top 25 largest solar power systems in the world. In addition, some of the County's fleet of vehicles now run on alternative fuels. A landfill gas-to-energy project is scheduled to start operation at the Neal Road Recycling and Waste Facility in 2010. In addition to County programs, agricultural and commercial businesses in the county have made tremendous strides in energy conservation and transition to renewable energy, including installation of onsite solar arrays and incorporation of other green business practices.

Butte County's efforts to support energy independence and renewable energy includes creating and launching Butte Choice Energy (BCE), a community choice aggregation (CCA) expected to launch in 2024. Once BCE is fully operational, it will purchase and/or generate electricity for residential and commercial customers in the unincorporated county, and the Cities of Chico and Oroville. Current customers will have the option to select BCE or PG&E as their electricity provider. Electricity will continue to be delivered through existing PG&E transmission lines, and PG&E will continue to provide natural gas services. The BCE process began in 2019 when the Butte County Board of Supervisors and the Chico City Council entered into a Joint Powers Authority agreement to create the BCE Authority.

B. Goals, Policies and Actions

Goal COS-3 **Promote a renewable and resilient energy supply that relies on carbon free electricity or other low-carbon, clean energy sources.**

Policies

COS-P3.1 The expansion and increased efficiency of hydroelectric power plants in the county is encouraged, provided that such plants can be expanded and that significant adverse environmental impacts associated with such plants can be successfully mitigated.

COS-P3.2 The development of renewable energy sources in the county shall be encouraged, provided that such fuel sources can be built or expanded and that significant adverse environmental impacts associated with such development can be successfully mitigated.

COS-P3.3 The County supports the INTRODUCTION and implementation of Butte Choice Energy, the County's community choice aggregation program.

COS-P3.4 The County shall promote and incentivize small-scale, on-site renewable energy and storage systems for existing residential units, nonresidential buildings, and in the agricultural sector.

COS-P3.5 The County supports efforts to increase renewable and carbon- free energy generation, including wind, solar, and biomass, and to ensure customer access to such renewable energy.

COS-P3.6 Utility lines shall be constructed along existing utility corridors wherever feasible.

COS-P3.7 Alternative energy sources such as solar shall continue to be used for County facilities, which set an example for others to follow.

COS-P3.8 Wind power generation facilities, solar power generation facilities, and other alternative energy facilities shall be encouraged in all General Plan land use designations, consistent with zoning provided that significant adverse environmental impacts associated with such development can be successfully mitigated. All new proposed energy projects shall be compatible with the Military Operations Areas (MOAs) shown on Figure LU-4.

Actions

COS-A3.1 Continue to implement the Butte County Utility-Scale Solar Guide, and expand the ability of battery storage to facility to full scale utility solar work to aid property owners and applicable community and business members in installing and maintaining solar PV.

COS-A3.2 Identify possible sites and resources for the production of non- solar energy using local renewable resources such as wind, small hydro, and biogas. Projects shall be located in areas compatible with the Military Operations Areas (MOAs) shown on Figure LU- 4.

COS-A3.3 Support development of alternative technologies to derive fuel or energy from waste.

COS-A3.4 Evaluate potential land use, environmental, economic, and other constraints affecting renewable energy development.

COS-A3.5 Identify measures to protect renewable energy resources such as utility easements, rights-of-way, and land set-asides.

COS-A3.6 Work with PG&E and community partners to provide energy backup systems such as small-scale on-site battery energy storage systems and back-up power sources at key community facilities, prioritizing solar systems, battery storage, and microgrid systems, with fossil fuel generators being used only as a last resort.

COS-A3.7 Continue to support the implementation and rollout of Butte Choice Energy, the County's community choice aggregation program.

COS-A3.8 Support ongoing efforts to explore the viability of a biomass-to- hydrogen facility, in coordination with the Butte County Fire Safe Council, and encourage its development, if identified to be feasible.

Goal COS-4 Conserve energy and fuel resources by increasing energy efficiency.

Policies

COS-P4.1 The County shall continue efforts to promote energy conservation and efficiency opportunities for all residents, building/property owners, and renters, including support and promotion of programs for lower- income and disadvantaged populations.

COS-P4.2 The County shall continue efforts to promote energy conservation and efficiency opportunities for all nonresidential uses, including County facilities, office space, commercial space, and industrial space.

COS-P4.3 Energy efficiency and reduction efforts of local businesses, including agricultural businesses, shall be promoted and encouraged.

COS-P4.4 The County shall coordinate with Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) and other utility providers to promote programs that reduce energy demand.

COS-P4.5 The Zoning Ordinance shall incorporate shading requirements for new parking lots as appropriate to relieve the potential for heat islands.

COS-P4.6 The County shall work with property owners and property management groups to increase overall building electrification of new and existing development, and adoption of modern, efficient appliances in residential rental properties.

COS-P4.7 Site and structure designs for new development projects shall maximize energy efficiency.

Actions

COS-A4.1 Continue to participate in available and future programs to provide low-cost financing for energy retrofits throughout Butte County.

COS-A4.2 Pursue grants to address existing energy inefficiencies in County facilities.

COS-A4.3 Consider giving preference to renewable energy for County purchases when feasible.

III. AIR QUALITY

A. Background Information

Butte County is in the northern portion of the Sacramento Valley Air Basin (SVAB), which includes the counties of Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Shasta, Sutter, Tehama, and Yuba. The SVAB is bounded on the north by the Cascade Range, on the south by the Greater Sacramento Air Region and San Joaquin Valley Air Basin, on the east by the Sierra Nevada, and on the west by the Coast Range. Dispersion of local pollutant emissions is predominantly affected by the prevailing wind patterns and inversions that often occur in the northern SVAB.

Existing air quality conditions in Butte County can be characterized in terms of the ambient air quality standards that the federal and State governments have established for various pollutants and by monitoring data collected in the region. The California Air Resources Board (CARB) operates ozone (summertime smog) monitoring equipment in Chico and Paradise. CARB operates fine particulate (PM2.5) monitoring equipment in Chico, Paradise, and in South Butte County outside of Gridley. The Chico air monitoring station is the only official ambient air quality site in Butte County that monitors for coarse particulates (PM10), nitrogen dioxide (NO2), lead, and carbon monoxide (CO).

Table COS-2 shows Butte County's attainment status with state and federal ambient air quality standards as of 2022:

TABLE COS-2 STATE AND FEDERAL AIR QUALITY ATTAINMENT STATUS

Pollutant	State Designation	Federal Designation
1-Hour Ozone	Nonattainment	No Standard (revoked)
8-Hour Ozone	Nonattainment	Nonattainment
Carbon Monoxide	Attainment	Attainment
Nitrogen Dioxide	Attainment	Attainment
Sulfur Dioxide	Attainment	Attainment
24-Hour PM10	Nonattainment	Attainment
24-Hour PM2.5	No Standard	Attainment
Annual PM10	Attainment	No Standard
Annual PM2.5	Nonattainment	Attainment

The most recent annual air quality report from the Butte County Air Quality Management District is available at https://bcaqmd.org/air-quality.

B. Goals, Policies and Actions

Goal COS-5 Minimize air pollutant emissions.

Policies

COS-P5.1 Air quality planning efforts shall be coordinated with local, regional, and State agencies, and shall encourage community participation in air quality planning.

COS-P5.2 Developers shall implement best available mitigation measures to reduce air pollutant emissions associated with the construction and operation of development projects.*

COS-P5.3 Only wood burning devices meeting current EPA certifications maybe installed in any residential projects.

COS-P5.4 Stationary air pollutant emission sources, such as factories, shall be located more than 500 feet and/or downwind from residential areas and other sensitive receptors.*

COS-P5.5 Residential developments and other projects with sensitive receptors shall be located more than 500 feet from stationary air pollutant sources. Residential developments and other projects with sensitive receptors (e.g. housing, schools, child care centers, playgrounds, hospitals, and senior centers) that are located within 500 feet of a high-volume roadway that carries over 50,000 vehicles per day shall incorporate feasible mitigation measures to protect sensitive receptors from harmful concentrations of air pollutants, as recommended in the California Air Resources Board's (CARB's) Air Quality and Land Use Handbook.*

COS-P5.6 New sources of toxic air pollutants shall comply with the permitting requirements of the Butte County Air Quality Management District and Section 44300 et. seq. of the California Health and Safety Code.*

COS-P5.7 The County shall cooperate with Butte County Air Quality Management District in efforts to reduce traffic-related emissions below levels that violate national ambient air quality standards in Butte County.

COS-P5.8 The County shall encourage the Butte County Air Quality Management District to work in partnership with fire managers to balance natural resource needs (e.g., prescribed burning) with air quality needs.

Actions

COS-A5.1 Support Air Quality Management District programs that would offer a rebate or incentive to replace wood-burning fireplaces and stoves with EPA-certified wood stoves or gas stoves.

COS-A5.2 Expand services and conduct outreach to discourage burning household waste.

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

A. Background Information

This section provides background information about Butte County's biological communities, special-status species, important wildlife areas and migratory deer herds.

The County is currently participating in a comprehensive conservation planning effort, the Butte Regional Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP). Coordinated by BCAG, the Butte Regional HCP/NCCP is an assessment of the county's natural resources and a strategy for protecting those resources while allowing for future growth and development in Butte County. The focus of the Butte Regional HCP/NCCP is on the western half of the county, where there is the greatest conflict between urban development and federal and State protected species. The goals of the Butte Regional HCP/NCCP include mapping the range of federal- and State-protected species, important habitats, and ecosystems; providing for or contributing to the recovery of endangered species; contributing to the conservation of natural communities and their associated native species; and allowing for a streamlined process of environmental permitting. Since the summer of 2007, two of the five phases of the Butte Regional HCP/NCCP have been completed, with a final project completion date expected in mid-2011.

1. Biological Communities

Ten general types of biological communities occur in Butte County. The distribution of these communities is closely associated with the varying topography and hydrology of the geographic subregions. These ten communities are displayed in Figure COS-1 and include:

- **Conifer Forest.** Several types of conifer forest occur in Butte County, including montane hardwood-conifer, ponderosa pine, Sierran mixed conifer, red fir, and subalpine conifer. The forest types vary in the dominant species and elevations at which they occur. Conifer forests provide habitat for many wildlife species.



Grasslands and agricultural land provide important habitat for owls, hawks, and other species. Photo courtesy of Richard Coon, General Plan 2030 Citizens Advisory Committee member.

FIGURE COS-1 VEGETATIVE COMMUNITIES AND WILDLIFE AREAS

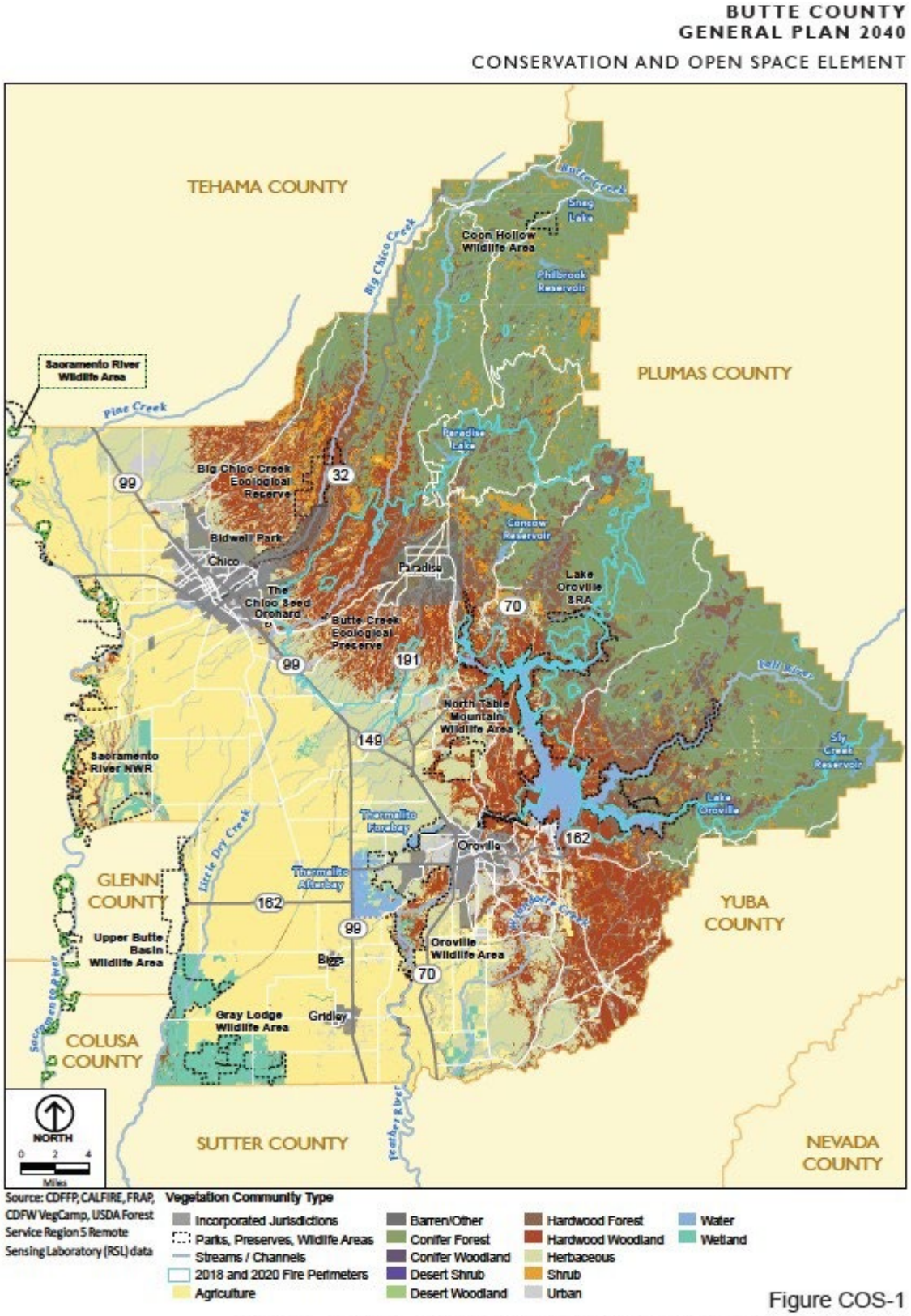


Figure COS-1
VEGETATIVE COMMUNITIES AND WILDLIFE AREAS

- **Oak Woodland.** Oak woodland community types include valley oak woodland, blue oak woodland and blue oak-foothill pine. Oak woodlands are scattered throughout the county but are concentrated in the transition area between the lower valley and higher elevations of the county. Oak woodlands provide wildlife with nesting sites, cover, and food. Oak woodlands are common locally and regionally; however, native oak trees and woodland habitats are declining statewide because of development and land management practices.
- **Riparian Woodland.** Riparian areas occur where land meets fresh water, such as a wetland or a streambank. Riparian woodlands occur along portions of the Sacramento River, Feather River, Thermalito Afterbay and Forebay, Thermalito Diversion Pool and along numerous smaller perennial and ephemeral drainages. Riparian woodlands are typically dominated by a mixture of trees and shrubs, and provide food, water and migration and dispersal corridors, as well as nesting and thermal cover for many wildlife species. Riparian habitats are considered sensitive natural communities and should be given special consideration because they provide several important ecological functions, including streambank stabilization, water quality maintenance, and essential habitat for wildlife and fisheries resources.
- **Chaparral**. Chaparral occurs on foothill slopes, within the understory of woodlands, and at higher elevations of Butte County. This community provides habitat for a variety of birds and mammals.
- **Annual Grasslands.** Large, open areas of annual grasslands occur primarily in the central portion of the county and are typically grazing pastures for livestock. Annual grasslands encompass vernal pool terrains and form the understory for oak woodland and occur as vacant parcels in developed areas. Annual grasslands provide foraging and breeding habitat for many wildlife species.
- **Open Water.** Open water communities in Butte County include several large reservoirs, numerous small ponds throughout agricultural areas, and perennial and ephemeral drainages. These communities provide habitat for fish, resident and migratory birds, amphibians, aquatic reptiles, and some mammals.
- **Wetlands.** Wetland communities in Butte County include freshwater marshes along the margins of drainages and open water habitats, wet meadows at higher elevations in the eastern portion of the county and vernal pools in the central portion of the county. Wetlands are considered sensitive natural communities by several resource agencies and should be given special consideration because they provide a variety of important ecological functions and essential habitat for wildlife resources, including several special status species. Natural wetland habitats are steadily declining compared to their historical distribution, as a result of land management practices and development activities. The US Army Corps of Engineers, US Fish and Wildlife Service and DFG have policies and regulations that protect wetland habitats.
- **Agricultural Land.** Much of the western half of the county is used for agriculture. Row crops and rice fields can provide relatively high-value habitat for wildlife, particularly as foraging habitat.
- **Barren Land.** Unvegetated land may include areas of vertical riverbanks and exposed rock, as well as unvegetated lands in urban areas. Although barren ground has limited use for most wildlife, some species prefer areas with limited or very low-growing vegetation.
- **Urban Areas.** Biological communities in urbanized areas are relatively limited and generally provide low value for wildlife.

2. Special-Status Species

Special-status species are plants and animals that are legally protected under the State and/or federal Endangered Species Act or other regulations, and species that are considered by the scientific community to be sufficiently rare to qualify for such listing. As of 2006, 77 special-status plant species, 47 special-status wildlife species and five special-status fish species have been documented or have the potential to occur in Butte County. Locations of special-status species occurrences documented in the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) are presented in Figure COS-2.

3. Important Wildlife Areas

Important wildlife areas in Butte County are public lands that have been conserved for the benefit of wildlife, including the Big Chico Creek Ecological Preserve, the Butte Creek Ecological Preserve, Bidwell Park, Table Mountain, the Gray Lodge Wildlife Area, the Oroville Wildlife Area, the Sacramento River Wildlife Area, and the Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge. These important wildlife areas are shown in Figure COS-1.

4. Migratory Deer Herds

Protection of Butte County's resident and migratory deer herds has long been an issue of concern for the County.

In the early 1980s, the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) developed management plans for migratory deer herds in California, which included migratory deer ranges in Butte County. Butte County relied upon DFG's deer range maps to establish zones where development is restricted to protect the deer herds. As part of the General Plan 2040 effort, wildlife biologists updated the map of winter and critical winter range migratory deer herd areas. The revised map is displayed in Figure COS-3.

Migratory deer herds migrate from higher elevations in Plumas and Lassen Counties to lower elevation winter range areas in Butte County. As shown in Figure COS-3, there are some portions of this winter range in Butte County that are critical winter range areas, which include habitat that is critical to the survival of the migratory deer herds during severe winter conditions. The non-critical areas, also mapped in Figure COS-3, provide habitat that is suitable for winter conditions, but not critical during severe winter conditions.

The updated deer herd winter range mapping developed for General Plan 2030 was based on several factors that affect habitat value, including vegetation, elevation, and terrain preferences, as well as the extent of fire suppression activities, since fire suppression can change the ecological conditions and lead to habitat deterioration. In addition, data showing actual existence of the deer herds was considered in the mapping process.

These updated maps were used to establish the Deer Herd Migration Area Overlay, which is described in the Land Use Element.

FIGURE COS-2 CALIFORNIA NATURAL DIVERSITY DATABASE OCCURRENCES IN BUTTE COUNTY

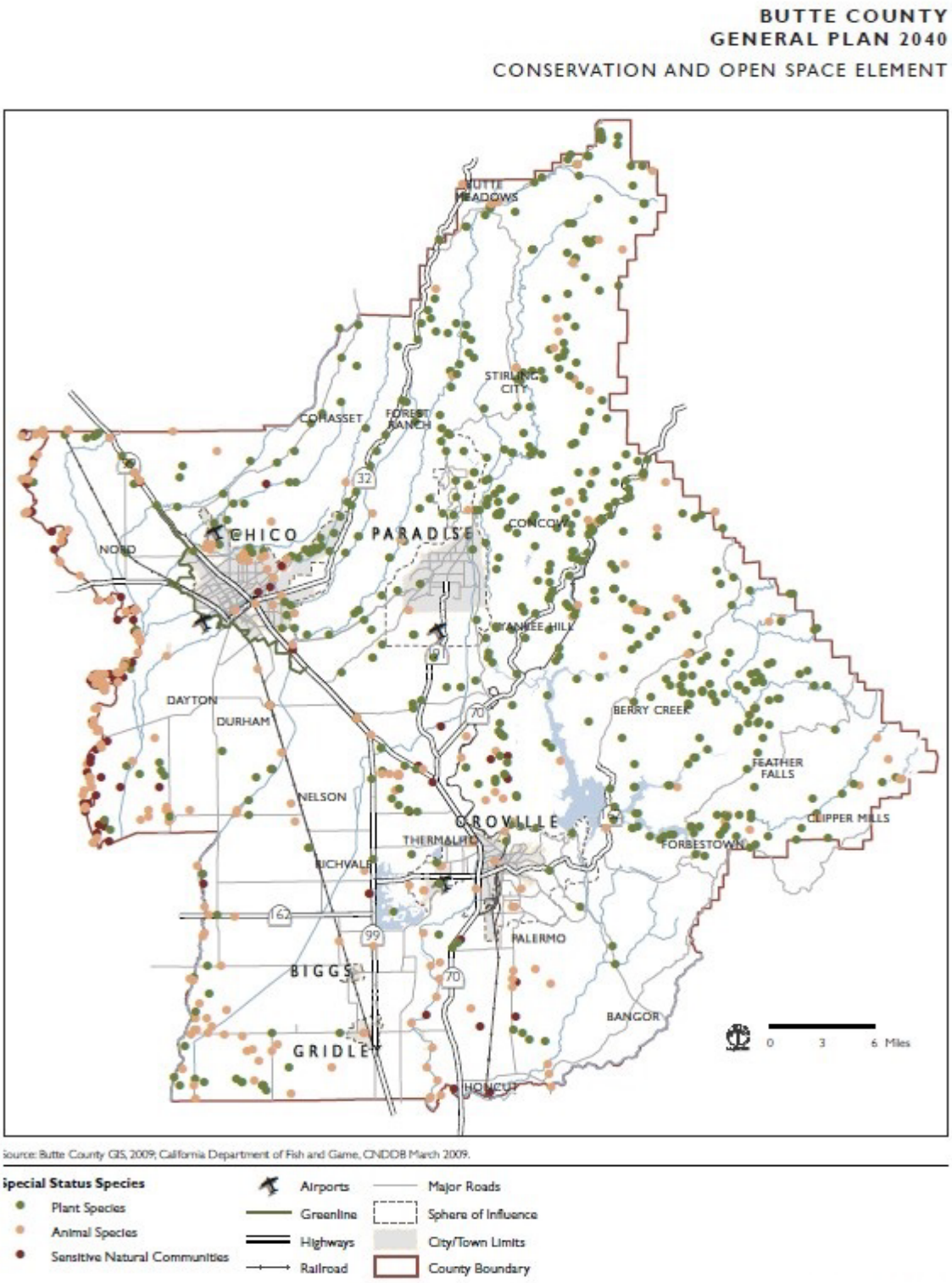


Figure COS-2

CALIFORNIA NATURAL DIVERSITY DATABASE OCCURRENCES IN BUTTE COUNTY

FIGURE COS-3 MIGRATORY DEER HERD AREAS

BUTTE COUNTY
GENERAL PLAN 2040
CONSERVATION AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT

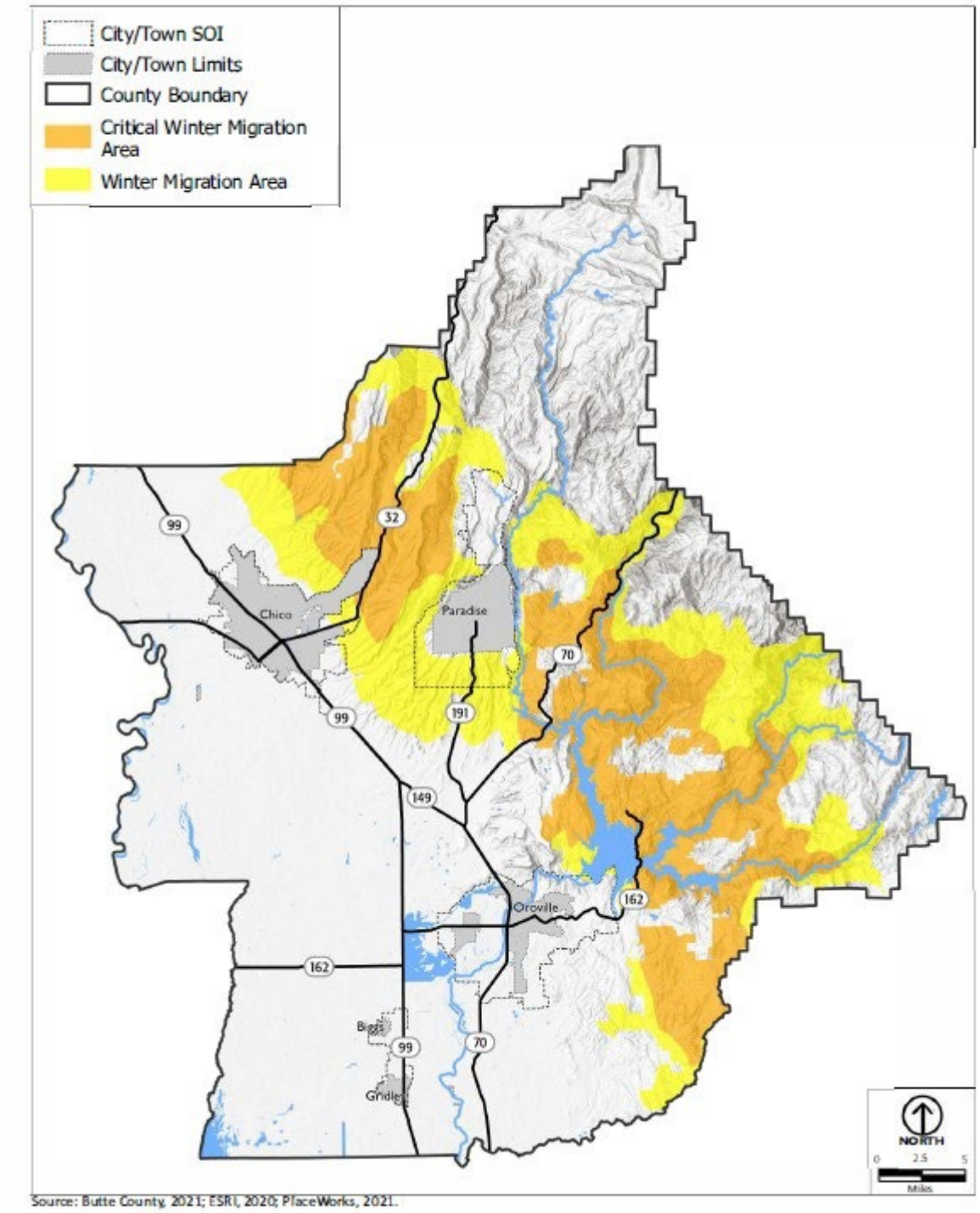


Figure COS-3
MIGRATORY DEER HERD AREAS

5. Fish Species

Butte County was historically one of the centers of wild salmon and steelhead, and the multitude of species dependent upon them, in the State of California. Oroville Dam ended the massive salmonid runs on the Feather River. Butte Creek and Big Chico Creek are the only undammed tributaries left in Butte County that support wild strains of endangered spring-run Chinook salmon and steelhead. Little Butte Creek and Dry Creek also support runs of critically designated steelhead. Although recovery efforts have boosted the population over the last 15 years, recent runs have declined significantly. Most measures show an average count of wild Butte Creek spring-run Chinook salmon of nearly 10,000 fish per year from 1998 to 2008. However, in 2009 only 2,561 fish returned to Butte Creek and a handful to Big Chico Creek.[1] Nevertheless, Butte Creek supports the largest run of wild, naturally spawned, spring-run Chinook salmon in California.[2] Protecting these last strongholds for these species is critical to our society.

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[1] California Department of Fish and Game Surveys.

[2] Butte County General Plan 2030 Setting and Trends Report, 2006.

B. Goals, Policies and Actions

Goal COS-6 **Engage in cooperative planning efforts to protect biological resources.**

Policies

COS-P6.1 The County shall coordinate with applicable federal, State, regional and local agencies on natural resources and habitat planning.

Actions

COS-A6.1 Work with Butte Creek Canyon residents and local groups toward adopting a planning strategy for a Butte Creek Canyon overlay. The purpose of the planning strategy is to facilitate the protection and preservation of the historical and ecological foundation of Butte Creek Canyon, including the survival of salmon, steelhead and other sensitive plants and animals such as the East Tehama Deer Herd, preservation of historical sites and ecological preserves, and the optimum balance of recreation and residential use.

Goal COS-7 **Conserve and enhance habitat for protected species and sensitive biological communities.**

Policies

COS-P7.1 Conservation easements that protect habitat areas, habitat corridors and sensitive biological resources shall be promoted.

COS-P7.2 Development patterns shall be encouraged to conserve habitat for protected species and biological resources.

COS-P7.3 Creeks shall be maintained in their natural state whenever possible, and creeks and floodways shall be allowed to function as natural flood protection features during storms.*

COS-P7.4 New development projects shall mitigate their impacts in habitat areas for protected species through on- or off-site habitat restoration, and/or project design and through the provisions of the Butte Regional Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP) within the HCP/NCCP Planning Area, upon the future adoption of the HCP/NCCP.*

COS-P7.5 No new development projects shall occur in wetlands or within significant riparian habitats, except within the Butte Regional Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP) Planning Area where such development is consistent with the conditions of the HCP/NCCP, upon the future adoption of the HCP/NCCP.*

COS-P7.6 New development projects shall include setbacks and buffers along riparian corridors and adjacent to habitat for protected species, except where permitted in the Butte Regional Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP) Planning Area and where such development is consistent with the conditions of the HCP/NCCP, upon the future adoption of the HCP/NCCP.*

COS-P7.7 Construction barrier fencing shall be installed around sensitive resources on or adjacent to construction sites. Fencing shall be installed prior to construction activities and maintained throughout the construction period.*

COS-P7.8 Where sensitive on-site biological resources have been identified, construction employees operating equipment or engaged in any development-associated activities involving vegetation removal or ground disturbing activities in sensitive resource areas shall be trained by a qualified biologist and/or botanist who will provide information on the on-site biological resources (sensitive natural communities, special-status plant and wildlife habitats, nests of special-status birds, etc.), avoidance of invasive plant INTRODUCTION and spread, and the penalties for not complying with biological mitigation requirements and other State and federal regulations.*

COS-P7.9 A biologist shall be retained to conduct construction monitoring in and adjacent to all habitats for protected species when construction is taking place near such habitat areas.*

COS-P7.10 Long-term recovery plans for areas affected by wildfire shall incorporate native species and enhance wildlife habitat.

COS-P7.11 The County shall work with the military to ensure that land uses under the Military Operations Areas (MOAs) encourage the fulfillment of the County's biological resource protection goals.

Actions

COS-A7.1 Seek funding to conduct a study to develop an approach to protecting significant specimen trees and tree groves.

Goal COS-8 Maintain and promote native vegetation.

Policies

COS-P8.1 Native plant species shall be protected, and planting and regeneration of native plant species shall be encouraged, wherever possible, in undisturbed portions of development sites.

COS-P8.2 New landscaping shall promote the use of xeriscape and native tree and plant species, including those valued for traditional Native American cultural uses.

COS-P8.3 Native plants shall be used wherever possible on County-owned and -controlled property.

COS-P8.4 INTRODUCTION or spread of invasive plant species during construction of development projects shall be avoided by minimizing surface disturbance; seeding and mulching disturbed areas with certified weed-free native mixes; and using native, noninvasive species in erosion control plantings.*

Goal COS-9 **Protect identified special-status plant and animal species.**

Policies

COS-P9.1 A biological resources assessment shall be required for any proposed development project where special-status species or critical habitat may be present. Assessments shall be carried out under the direction of Butte County. Additional focused surveys shall be conducted during the appropriate season if necessary. Upon adoption of the Butte Regional Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP), assessment requirements of the HCP/NCCP shall be implemented for development projects within the HCP/NCCP area.*

COS-P9.2 If special-status plant or animal species are found to be located within a development site, proponents of the project shall engage in consultation with the appropriate federal, State, and regional agencies and mitigate project impacts in accordance with State and federal law. Upon adoption of the Butte Regional Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP), mitigation requirements of the HCP/NCCP shall be implemented for development projects within the HCP/NCCP area. Examples of mitigation may include:*

a. Design the proposed project to avoid and minimize impacts.

b. Restrict construction to specific seasons based on project- specific special-status species issues (e.g., minimizing impacts to special-status nesting birds by constructing outside of the nesting season).

c. Confine construction disturbance to the minimum area necessary to complete the work.

d. Mitigate for the loss of special-status species by purchasing credits at an approved conservation bank (if a bank exists for the species in question), funding restoration or habitat improvement projects at existing preserves in Butte County or purchasing or donating mitigation lands of substantially similar habitat.

e. Maintain a minimum 100-foot buffer on each side of all riparian corridors, creeks and streams for special-status and common wildlife.

f. Establish setbacks from the outer edge of special-status species habitat areas.

g. Construct barriers to prevent compaction damage by foot or vehicular traffic.

Goal COS-10 **Facilitate the survival of deer herds in winter and critical winter migratory deer herd ranges.**

Policies

COS-P10.1 Development projects that are designed to accommodate herd migration patterns shall be allowed and encouraged, with remaining areas protected under conservation easements, within the Winter and Critical Winter Deer Herd Migration Area Overlays to protect migratory deer herd ranges.

Actions

COS-A10.1 Coordinate with the California Department of Fish and Game to monitor the effects of development on migratory deer herds.

COS-A10.2 Seek funding for and conduct more detailed studies about deer herd migration and use those studies to update the Deer Herd Migration Area Overlay if needed.

V. TIMBER RESOURCES

A. Background Information

The combination of ample rainfall, a long growing season and deep soils result in good growing conditions for mixed conifer forest in Butte County. These timber resources are primarily located in the northeastern portions of the county at elevations between approximately 2,200 and 6,200 feet. The major vegetation community associated with timberlands in Butte County is westside mixed conifer (Sierra mixed conifer), which is dominated by sugar pine, ponderosa pine, Douglas fir, white fir, and incense cedar. In 2007, almost 66 million board feet of timber was produced in Butte County, with a value of over $16 million.

Timberlands occur on both public and private lands. Some logging occurs in the areas managed by the US Forest Service within the Lassen and Plumas National Forests. Sierra Pacific Industries, a timber company, is the largest private landowner in Butte County, with land holdings located primarily in the northern part of the county, near the Lassen National Forest. Timber harvests on private lands are primarily regulated by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection through the timber harvesting plan review process.

Policies affecting timber resources are also provided in the fire hazards section of the HEALTH AND SAFETY ELEMENT.

B. Goals, Policies and Actions

Goal COS-11 Protect timber resources and promote sustainable timber production.

Policies

COS-P11.1 The County supports and promotes sustainable timber production.

COS-P11.2 The County shall support and cooperate with CAL FIRE in its responsibilities related to timber and forest practice laws.

COS-P11.3 The County shall coordinate with CAL FIRE to ensure timber harvesting plans are kept up-to-date and implemented to continue sustainable harvesting of timber resources.

COS-P11.4 The County shall coordinate with the US Forest Service (USFS), Bureau of Land Management, California Department of Water Resources, and California Department of Fish & Wildlife to proactively monitor the landscape to prohibit the illegal conversion of timberlands for use in cannabis production.

COS-P11.5 Urban development shall not limit the financial sustainability of timber operations.

COS-P11.6 Residential uses on or adjacent to parcels zoned Timber Production shall not be allowed to negatively impact continued timber harvesting operations.

COS-P11.7 Lot line adjustments shall be allowed on substandard Timber Production Zone parcels to consolidate logical timberland management units or to accommodate a valid public interest as determined by Butte County.

COS-P11.8 Public facilities shall generally not be located in the Timber Production Zone if the facility would have a significant adverse effect on the production of timber, unless alternative sites for an essential public use cannot be located elsewhere.

COS-P11.9 The County encourages the development of local forest products and biomass energy facilities to provide a way to utilize low-value forest products and wood waste.

Actions

COS-A11.1 Coordinate with public land managers on timber management practices to promote healthy, sustainable forests and local economic benefit.

COS-A11.2 Provide education materials from State agencies such as CAL- FIRE promoting sustainable forest practices in the county.

COS-A11.3 Seek the advice of a Registered Professional Forester when making decisions regarding forest management.

COS-A11.4 Coordinate with private landholders, non-profit organizations, and local, State, and federal agencies to promote the safety and well- being of residents and visitors in the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) zones by advancing appropriate forest management and fuels reduction projects near infrastructure.

Goal COS-12 Support resilient forest lands that resist forestry pests and diseases.

Policies

COS-P12.1 The County shall partner with federal, State, tribal, and regional partners to proactively manage forested lands to reduce fire risks and pest outbreaks.

COS-P12.2 The County shall coordinate with CAL FIRE, USFS, Bureau of Land Management, and other landowners to cover exposed ground with organic and woody materials left on-site after timber harvesting to prevent regrowth of invasive species.

Actions

COS-A12.1 Work with the USFS, Bureau of Land Management, local tribal nations, and regional park districts to expedite the approval process for the removal of woody material and dead trees on public and private land to minimize the spread of diseases and infestation.

COS-A12.2 Explore grants and other funding sources to offset the costs associated with the removal of dead and dying trees on private property post-fire or drought.

COS-A12.3 Establish facilities in Butte County that can store and process wood and debris from forest fuel-clearing activities, creating a market for biomass feedstock.

VI. MINERAL AND SOIL RESOURCES

A. Background Information

Mining activities in Butte County focus on sand and gravel. Although other mineral resources have been or are extracted in Butte County, sand and gravel mining plays the greatest role in the County's economy.

Most of the county's sand and gravel deposits occur in two regions, along the Sacramento River and within a band running from north to south down the center of the county. Gravel in the Sacramento River is no longer extensively mined, due to environmental constraints and the difficulty of working in an area with a high water table. Gravel mining is most active in the county's central "gravel belt," the transitional region where sediments washed down from the Sierra Nevadas into the slower moving rivers of the flat valley. In the past, these residual gravel deposits were mined for their gold content. Today, they are primarily mined for gravel and sand, to be used in combination with portland cement or asphalt compounds in construction and road building. Sand and gravel deposits are also mined for silica, used in the production of cleansers, fiberglass, abrasives, and toothpaste.

Gold is also mined in Butte County. The main form of gold mining in Butte County has been placer mining, although underground mining took place historically. Placer mining involves removing the surface gold-bearing gravels, and either washing or chemically extracting the gold ore from the gravel. There are no permitted placer mines in Butte County, although the Department of Fish and Game regulates suction dredge mining within the county's creeks and rivers. In addition, buried placer deposits can be obtained through drift mining, which involves digging into the ground and tunneling horizontally to extract the gravels. Another kind of gold mining is lode mining, which often involves open pit mines and blasting mountains to expose deep veins of gold. Examples of lode gold mines in Butte County include the Blue Lead, Ohio Dix, and Carr mines. Buried placer deposits are located throughout the county and are not easily identified.

Conflicts between mining and urban uses throughout California led to passage of the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975 (SMARA). This Act establishes policies for conservation and development of mineral lands and contains specific provisions for the classification of mineral lands by the State Geologist.

SMARA requires all cities and counties to incorporate in their General Plans mapped designations approved by the State Mining and Geology Board (SMGB). These designations include lands categorized as Mineral Resource Zones (MRZs), the most significant of which is a designation of mineral resources that are of regional or statewide significance. The local General Plan must recognize these categories and establish policies and programs for the conservation and development of these resources.



A rock quarry near Bangor. Photo courtesy of the Butte County Department of Development Services.

The State Geologist has not yet mapped the mineral resources in Butte County. However, public or private entities can petition the SMGB to classify specific lands that contain significant mineral deposits and that are threatened by land use incompatibilities. In 1994, the SMGB received a Petition for Mineral Classification for Martin Marietta Materials Table Mountain Quarry near Oroville. This petition involves approximately 320 acres of land that is considered an active basalt mine. The SMGB concluded that part of this mine is classified as a mineral resource of regional or statewide significance. In addition, in 2001, the State classified a portion of the M&T Chico Ranch, a previously-proposed mining site located adjacent to Little Chico Creek 5 miles southwest of Chico, as a mineral resource of regional or statewide significance. However, the M&T Chico Ranch mine proposal was not approved and is not currently being considered for mining under County permit. These two mineral resource areas are shown in Figure COS-4.

FIGURE COS-4 MINERAL RESOURCES ZONE 2 SITES

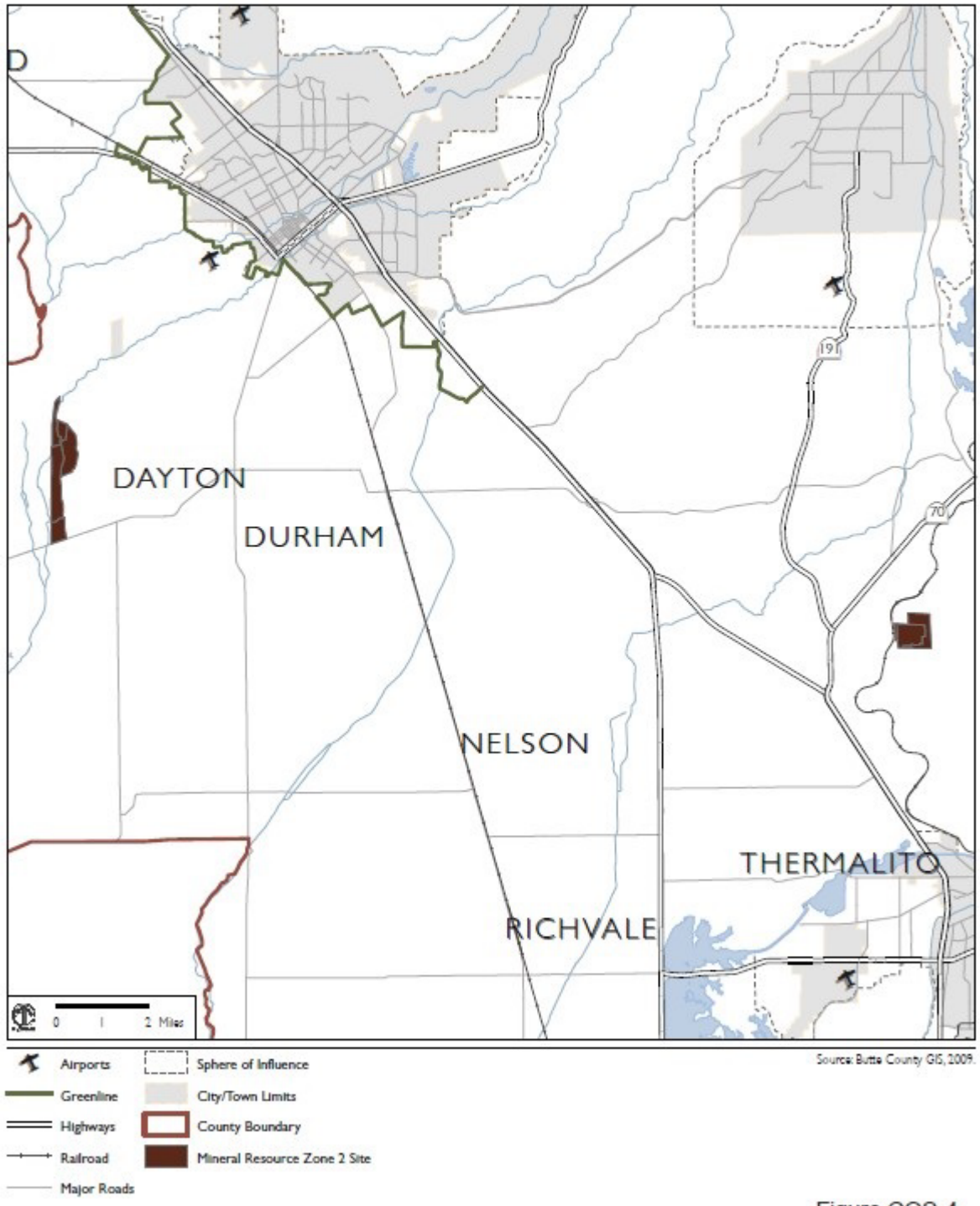


Figure COS-4
MINERAL RESOURCES ZONE 2 SITES

B. Goals, Policies and Actions

Goal COS-13 **Protect economically viable mineral resources and related industries while avoiding land use conflicts and environmental impacts from mining activities.**

Policies

COS-P13.1 Sufficient aggregate resources to meet the County's fair share of future regional needs shall be conserved.

COS-P13.2 Mineral resources identified by the State to be of regional or statewide significance for mineral resource extraction shall be conserved.*

COS-P13.3 Permitted uses on lands containing and adjacent to important mineral resources shall be restricted to those compatible with mineral extraction, except in cases where such uses offer public benefits that outweigh those of resource extraction.

COS-P13.4 Prior to approval of any new or expanded mining operation, the applicant shall demonstrate that the operation will not create significant nuisances, hazards, or adverse environmental effects.

COS-P13.5 New mineral haul routes shall avoid landslides, highly erodible soils, residential areas, and schools, when feasible.

COS-P13.6 Discretionary development projects in the vicinity of permitted mining extraction sites or along existing haul routes shall record a notice of the right to mine against the property for which a discretionary permit is sought. The notice shall advise owners and subsequent interests in ownership that the existing mining operation has a permitted right to continued mining operations.

COS-P13.7 Mined property shall be left in a condition suitable for reuse in conformance with the General Plan land use designations and in accordance with the California Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA).

VII. MILITARY INSTALLATIONS

A. Background Information

There are no military installations located within Butte County. However, Beale Air Force Base is in neighboring Yuba County, and a portion of unincorporated Butte County is included within its Military Influence Area (MIA). The purpose of the MIA is to ensure compatibility between military land uses and adjacent community land uses. The MIA encompasses approximately 19,060 acres in the southeastern portion of Butte County as shown in Figure COS-5. All of the MIA within Butte County is part of MIA Zone III, which is the furthest zone from the Air Force Base and includes areas within 15 miles of the base's runway.

Beyond the boundaries of the Beale Air Force Base, there are several Military Operation Areas (MOAs) also known as "freeways in the sky" that are training routes for the military. The MOAs identify a floor elevation, which is the lowest operating height the aircrafts will fly. MOA boundaries and minimum altitudes are identified in Figure LU-4.

To protect the integrity of the MOAs, all new development that could penetrate the defined floor elevation within an MOA shall be subject to discretionary review for hazards to aircraft including but not limited to:

- Uses that release into the air any substance that would impair pilot visibility, such as steam, dust, and smoke.
- Uses that produce light emissions, glare or distracting lights that could interfere with pilot vision or be mistaken for airfield lighting.
- Uses that physically obstruct any portion of the MOA due to relative height above ground level.

As Butte County's population and economic activity grow in the future, public safety within the MOAs shall be coordinated with the military through compatible land use planning. State policy requires collaboration between communities and the military on land use compatibility issues. As such, the military's operational decisions must take into consideration the community's land use and economic development plans and programs. Similarly, as communities grow, they must consider the mission of the military installations that operate nearby.

FIGURE COS-5 BEALE AIR FORCE BASE MILITARY INFLUENCE AREAS

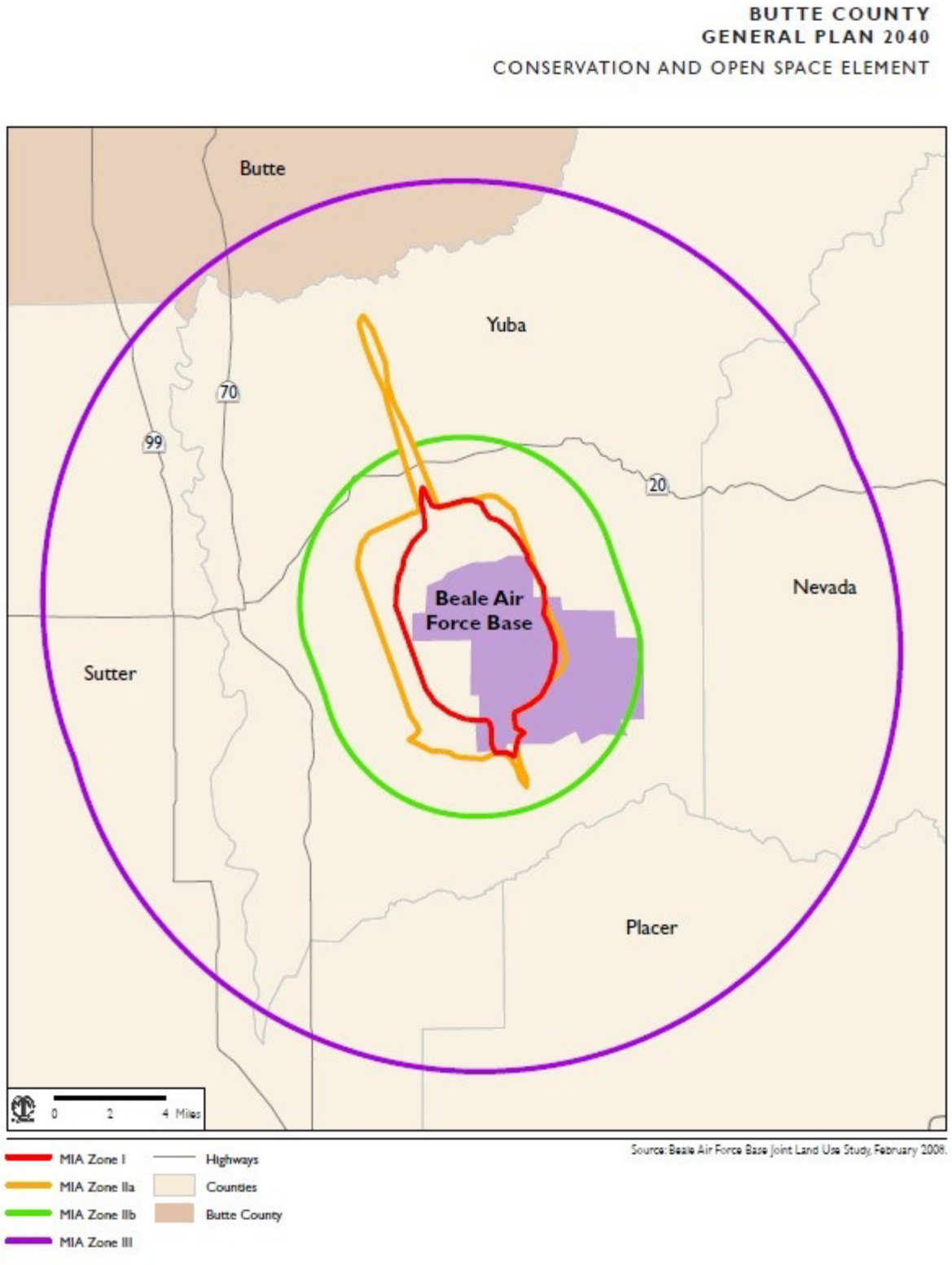


Figure COS-5

BEALE AIR FORCE BASE MILITARY INFLUENCE AREAS

B. Goals, Policies and Actions

Goal COS-14 **Coordinate with the Beale Air Force Base and the Department of Defense (DoD) on planning issues within the Military Influence and Operating Areas.**

Policies

COS-P14.1 Beale Air Force Base and the Department of Defense (DoD) shall be consulted for review and comment on proposed development projects, General Plan changes, zoning changes, specific plans, and other comprehensive plans within the Military Influence Area for Beale Air force Base and throughout the county for the DoD that have the potential for significant regional impacts.

COS-P14.2 The County shall consider the needs of the Beale Air Force Base for new and expanded infrastructure, as well as on-going maintenance needs for those infrastructure systems, within the Military Influence Area.

COS-P14.3 The County shall utilize the Zoning Ordinance to require review of all proposed development projects within the Military Operations Areas (MOAs) shown in Figure LU-4.

VIII. CULTURAL RESOURCES

A. Background Information

Cultural resources in Butte County include archaeological resources, historic resources and cultural resources related to Native Americans.

1. Archaeological Resources

Prehistoric resources are resources that date back to periods during which there were not written records. Of the over 2,900 archaeological sites recorded in Butte County, over 1,500 sites are either prehistoric archaeological resources or include a prehistoric archaeological component, such as habitation sites, hunting/processing camps, milling stations, rock art sites and burial locations. The overall prehistoric archaeological sensitivity of Butte County is generally considered high, particularly in areas near water sources or on terraces along watercourses.



Honey Run covered bridge near Chico. Photo courtesy of the Butte County Department of Development Services.

The history of human occupation and use in Butte County is characterized by several related trends taking place throughout the last 10,000 years. Archaeologically visible patterns can be attributed to responses to gradual changes in climate, resource availability and human population growth. The cultural responses to these changes include specialization, intensification, a less mobile lifestyle and the development of a regional economic network.

Historic resources are from periods during which there were written records. There are over 1,500 archaeological sites that are historic period sites or contain a historical archaeological component, such as old transportation corridors and alignments, and remnants of activities associated with historic homesteading, ranching, agriculture, mining, and commerce. The overall historic archaeological sensitivity of Butte County area is generally considered moderately high in those areas where historic records indicate transportation routes, agricultural settlements and mining have occurred.

According to the California Office of Historic Preservation, a total of 129 archaeological sites are listed on or have been formally recommended as eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, and therefore by default on the California Register of Historical Resources. Of these, 98 are prehistoric archaeological sites, 25 are historic period archaeological sites, and six are archaeological sites that contain both prehistoric and historic period components.

2. Historic Resources

Historic cultural resources generally include buildings, roads, trails, bridges, canals, and railroads usually associated with the period beginning with the first Euro- American contact. Because settlement of Butte County dates to the 1840s, the County is rich in historic cultural resources. In general, concentrations of historic resources in the county occur adjacent to transportation corridors; on historic ranches; in areas of historic rock, soil, mineral, and timber extraction; and within historic neighborhoods and business districts.

There are several hundred properties with historic resources that are listed in or appear to meet the criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and California Register of Historical Resources. In addition, the State has designated nine California Historical Landmarks and 20 California Points of Historical Interest in Butte County.

The Mills Act, enacted in 1976 by the State of California, provides a preservation incentive to owners of qualified, owner-occupied, historical properties. Qualifying properties include those that are not adequately maintained or in need of rehabilitation. The Mills Act is a State-sponsored program that offers up to a 50 percent reduction in property tax in exchange for the owner's agreement to maintain and preserve the historic property in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.

3. Native American Cultural Resources

Butte County includes the territories of four Native American groups: the Maidu, the Nisenan, the Konkow, and the Yana. There are several Native American sacred sites located throughout Butte County. For the purposes of this Element, the term "sacred site" refers to any specific location that is identified by a Native American tribe or Native American individual that is determined to be an appropriately authoritative representative of a Native American religion, as sacred by virtue of its established religious significance to, or ceremonial use by, a Native American religion.

a. General Plan 2030 Outreach

Butte County invited all Native American Tribes listed by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) as being culturally affiliated with the County to consult on Butte County General Plan 2030, as required by Senate Bill 18 (SB 18) in Chapter 3 of the California Government Code. At the time General Plan 2030 was prepared, NAHC identified six tribes in Butte County for consultation under SB 18:

- Mechoopda Indian Tribe of Chico Rancheria
- Mooretown Rancheria of Maidu Indians
- Greenville Rancheria of Maidu Indians
- Maidu Nation
- Berry Creek Rancheria of Maidu Indians
- Enterprise Rancheria of Maidu Indians

In addition, the NAHC identified tribal contacts appropriate for consultation regarding the General Plan EIR. The County invited these tribal contacts to consult on General Plan 2030 as well.

The County provided periodic Tribal Update Meetings throughout the planning process. These meetings described the status, progress, and products of the Butte County General Plan 2030 process to tribes listed for consultation.

b. General Plan 2040 Outreach

To inform development of Butte County General Plan 2040, on August 31, 2021, County staff notified 12 individuals representing the Tribal entities listed by the NAHC as being culturally affiliated with the County to consult on Butte County General Plan 2040, as required by SB 18. At the time General Plan 2040 was prepared, the NAHC identified nine tribes in Butte County for consultation under SB 18:

- Mechoopda Indian Tribe of Chico Rancheria
- Mooretown Rancheria of Maidu Indians
- Greenville Rancheria of Maidu Indians
- Konkow Valley Band of Maidu
- Tsi Akim Maidu
- Berry Creek Rancheria of Maidu Indians
- Estom Yumeka Enterprise Rancheria of Maidu Indians
- Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California
- United Auburn Indian Community

The County received responses with interest in meeting from one Tribe, Mooretown Rancheria of Maidu Indians. Input provided by Mooretown Rancheria representatives in a meeting with County staff resulted in the INTRODUCTION of new policies, COS-P17.1 and COS-P17.3. The County concluded consultation with Mooretown Rancheria on July 5, 2022. Separately, in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52), the County notified United Auburn Indian Community and Mechoopda Indian Tribe on October 7, 2022. The United Auburn Indian Community acknowledged receipt of the letter on October 11, 2022, and indicated that they would review the General Plan, but did not request consultation. Neither tribe requested consultation within the 30-day window, and, on November 22, 2022, the County concluded consultation under AB 52.

In addition, United Auburn Indian Community and the Mechoopda Indian Tribe had previously requested notification by the County for opportunities to consult under AB 52. Therefore, the County invited these tribal contacts to consult on the General Plan 2040 EIR as well.

B. Goals, Policies and Actions

Goal COS-15 Preserve important cultural resources.

Policies

COS-P15.1 Historic and cultural resources management shall be coordinated with nearby jurisdictions, including the five incorporated municipalities, the Lassen and Plumas National Forests, other planning and regulatory agencies, and local tribes.

COS-P15.2 As part of CEQA and NEPA projects, evaluations of surface and subsurface cultural resources in the county shall be conducted. Such evaluations should involve consultation with the Northeast Information Center.

COS-P15.3 The Northeast Information Center and appropriate historic and preservation professionals shall be consulted when considering re- use of historic sites.

Actions

COS-A15.1 Seek funding to conduct a study to define types and categories of historic and cultural resources in the county, including sources of information necessary for cultural resource evaluation and the development of appropriate mitigation measures.

COS-A15.2 Seek funding to compile an inventory of known cultural resources, including historic and prehistoric resources and important, local agricultural and historic landscapes. Examples of such landscapes include rock walls, barns, silos, agricultural land use patterns, grange halls and historic farmhouses, as well as linear features such as historic roads, emigrant and Native American trails, flumes, ditches, and historic highways. Other examples include citrus colony land use patterns like those in Palermo and Durham, established by colonists developing land for citrus agriculture.

COS-A15.3 Once the cultural resources inventory is created, develop a mechanism for updating it that recognizes the potential for on- going improvement in information about these resources.

COS-A15.4 Compile an inventory of viewsheds appropriate for recognition as historic resources.

COS-A15.5 Develop a program to educate the public and the development community about important cultural and historic resources.

COS-A15.6 Develop and adopt incentives to support the preservation of historic and cultural resources, including Mills Act incentives, incentives to encourage adherence to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation, and incentives to expand the types of properties that can be listed on the register.

Goal COS-16 Ensure that new development does not adversely impact cultural resources.

Policies

COS-P16.1 Areas found during construction to contain significant historic or prehistoric archaeological artifacts shall be examined by a qualified consulting archaeologist or historian for appropriate protection and preservation. Historic or prehistoric artifacts found during construction shall be examined by a qualified consulting archaeologist or historian to determine their significance and develop appropriate protection and preservation measures.*

COS-P16.2 Any archaeological or paleontological resources on a development project site shall be either preserved in their sites or adequately documented as a condition of removal. When a development project has sufficient flexibility, avoidance and preservation of the resource shall be the primary mitigation measure.*

COS-P16.3 Demolition permit applications on potentially important historic sites shall be subject to discretionary review.

Actions

COS-A16.1 In consultation with the Northeast Information Center, create guidelines for evaluating development project impacts to surface and subsurface cultural resources, including specific mitigations for impacts that are identified.

Goal COS-17 Respect Native American culture and planning concerns.

Policies

COS-P17.1 The County shall maintain collaborative relationships with local Native American tribal representatives to facilitate consultation in the review of future projects that have the potential to impact tribal cultural resources.

COS-P17.2 County staff shall participate in a dialog with local Native American tribes to collaborate on tribal land use plans.

COS-P17.3 The County shall consult with local Native American tribes on wildfire hazard mitigation, including hazard tree removal, and wildfire recovery, including road impacts and resource management in burn scar areas.

COS-P17.4 Impacts to the traditional Native American landscape shall be considered during California Environmental Quality Act or National Environmental Protection Act review of development proposals.

COS-P17.5 Human remains discovered during implementation of public and private development projects shall be treated with dignity and respect. Such treatment shall fully comply with the federal Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act and other appropriate laws.

COS-P17.6 If human remains are located during any ground disturbing activity, work shall stop until the County Coroner has been contacted, and, if the human remains are determined to be of Native American origin, the NAHC and most likely descendant have been consulted.*

COS-P17.7 Consistent with State local and tribal intergovernmental consultation requirements such as SB18 and AB52, the County shall consult with Native American tribes that may be interested in proposed new development projects and land use policy changes.

Actions

COS-A17.1 Establish Memoranda of Agreement regarding development consultation procedures with local Native American tribes. These Memoranda may include the following:

a. Addition of a General Plan policy that establishes a process for consultation regarding proposed development projects with local Indian tribes at the earliest possible time.

b. Development of a formal consultation protocol that provides adequate review time for tribes to review and respond to consultation requests, and that includes a definition of terms, notification procedures, review periods and procedures regarding sharing of confidential information.

c. Development and adoption of a cultural resources management plan for the County, including policies and procedures for the curation and disposition of objects, and protection, preservation, and long-term monitoring of traditional cultural properties.

d. Guidelines for engagement with local tribes to create a confidential cultural resources inventory to be conducted as part of a countywide assessment of cultural resources. Use ethnographies as one source of information for non- archaeological Native American sites.

e. Development of a reliable and trustworthy system and relationship between local tribes and the County to protect confidential tribal information.

f. Coordination with local tribes to adopt standards for County and private retention of professional archaeologists and cultural resource specialists to monitor construction on sensitive sites. Standards for professional archaeologists should meet or exceed US Department of Interior standards.

g. Guidelines for engagement with local Indian tribes to create a confidential cultural resources inventory of the county and development of a reliable and trustworthy system and relationship between local tribes and the County to protect confidential tribal information.

h. Re-evaluation of sites of past archaeological investigations that may be impacted by proposed development projects to assess cultural sensitivity, using state-of-the-art methods.

i. Recognition of the importance to Native Americans of natural resources, including oak woodlands, deer herds, water bodies and riparian corridors, as well as aquatic, riparian and upland plant and animal species. Recognition of the importance to local Native American tribes of gathering and use sites, as well as other traditional tribal cultural places. Consideration of the use of these resources and sites by contemporary Native Americans in planning for land use, development, and management. Consultation and other coordination with local Native American tribes to preserve these habitats, resources, sites, and species.

j. Establishment of protection measures to acknowledge and protect traditional tribal cultural knowledge and intellectual property rights.

COS-A17.2 Consult California State University Chico tribal relations staff for input on tribal outreach strategies.

COS-A17.3 Compile an inventory of specific viewsheds of cultural importance to Native Americans.

COS-A17.4 Consult with local tribes on species to be included in a list of native tree and plant species for use in required landscaping for new development projects.

IX. SCENIC RESOURCES

A. Background Information

Butte County encompasses an outstanding variety of natural vistas, landscapes, water resources and Scenic Byways. Significant scenic resources are displayed in Figure COS-6 and described below. Although this list of resources and the map do not provide any regulatory influence, they are provided to describe the scenic resources that have been mapped in Butte County. This list and map do not constitute a full list of scenic resources in Butte County, and the policies and actions in Section B pertain to all scenic resources, not just those that are listed and mapped.

- **Table Mountain Spring Floral Area.** The lava flow that now tops Table Mountain brings an explosion of color each year in the form of native wildflowers. Over 3,300 acres of North Table Mountain is protected as an ecological reserve by the State Department of Fish and Game.
- **Central Buttes**. Rising from the valley floor, these geologic features are remnants of the surrounding landform that eroded around them over the millennia. Many of these buttes are visible from State Routes 99, 149, and 70.
- **Sacramento River and its Riparian Corridor.** Some of the county's richest habitat and most beautiful views are found along the Sacramento River and its associated riparian corridor. State and federal agencies have acquired significant portions of the riparian corridor to help protect this resource.
- **Butte Creek Canyon.** The Skyway provides views to a dramatic and panoramic display of the topographic and geologic features of Butte Creek Canyon. A portion of this canyon is protected as an ecological reserve by the State Department of Fish and Game.

FIGURE COS-6 SCENIC RESOURCES

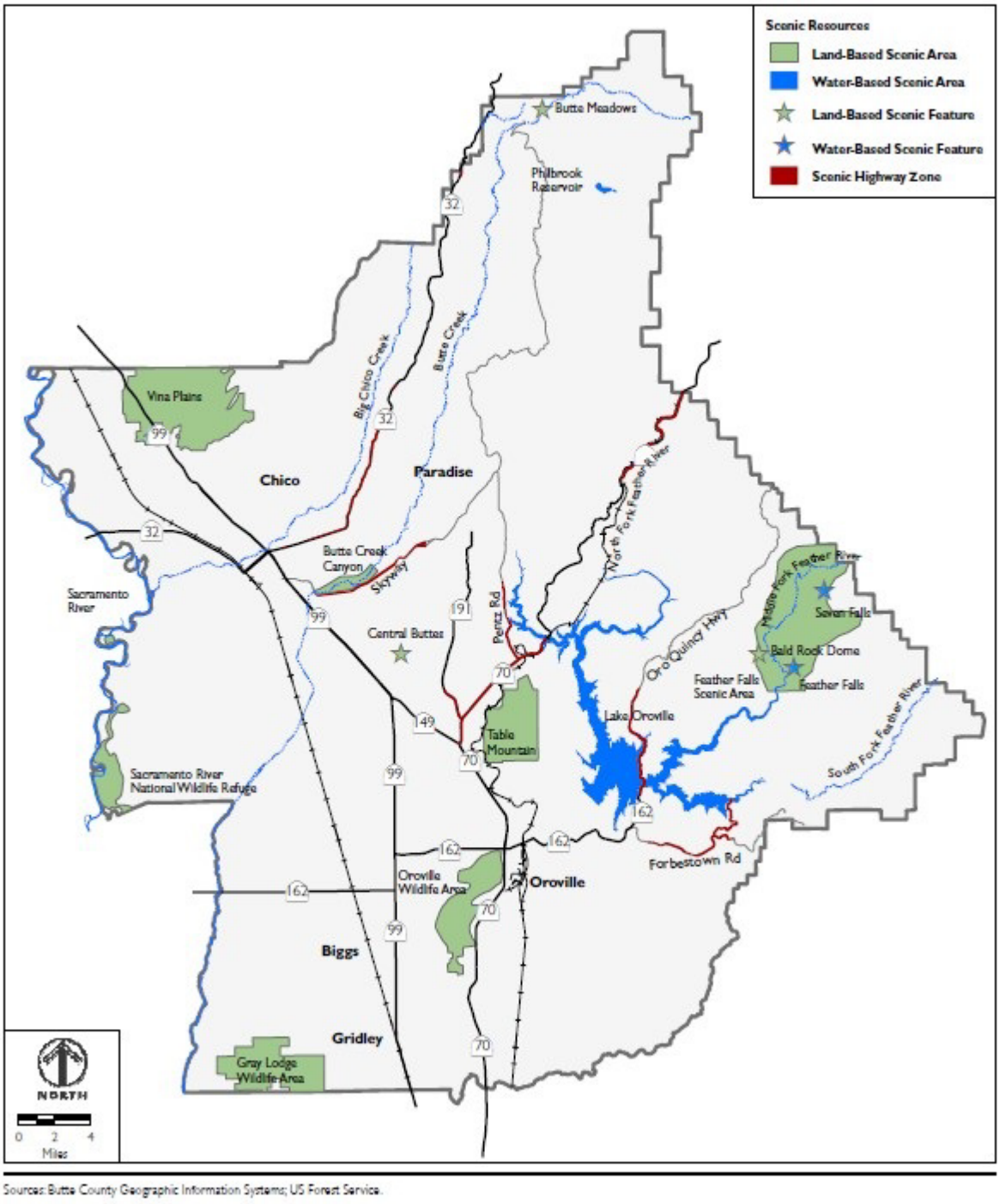


Figure COS-6
SCENIC RESOURCES



Spring wildflowers on Table Mountain. Photo courtesy of Lynne Pillus, Butte County Department of Water & Resource Conservation.

- **Lake Oroville.** Lake Oroville provides many scenic vistas from several highways that traverse its shores, while providing an assortment of recreational activities for residents and visitors.
- **Philbrook Lake.** Pacific Gas and Electric Company owns the Philbrook Reservoir, a tranquil mountain lake nestled between several scenic mountain outcroppings.
- **Feather Falls Scenic Area Features.** The Feather Falls Scenic Area, part of the Plumas National Forest, includes granite domes, such as Bald Rock and waterfalls, such as Feather Falls and Seven Falls.
- **Seasonal Scenic Resources.** Many tourists visit the orchards in the valley areas of Butte County during the early spring when almonds and other trees are blossoming.

Scenic Byways are defined as those main public roadways that pass through an area of picturesque natural landscapes. Scenic Byways are officially designated by the State or are identified as a County Scenic Byway in this General Plan.

Although there are no officially-designated State Scenic Highways in Butte County, State Route 70 north of the intersection with State Route 149 is included in the California Scenic Highway Program and is considered an eligible State Scenic Highway. State Route 70 through the Feather River Canyon and a portion of State Route 32 north of Forest Ranch are recognized as County Scenic Highways, as shown in Figure COS-7.

As shown in Figure COS-8, a Scenic Highway Overlay Zone in the Zoning Ordinance is applied to an area extended 350 linear feet from the centerline of scenic routes, including:

- Portions of State Route 32 north of Chico.
- Portions of State Route 70 north of the State Route 149 intersection.
- The Skyway with its expansive views of the Northern Sacramento Valley and Coast Range.
- The southern portions of State Route 191 and Pentz Road.
- The portion of State Route 162 along Lake Oroville.
- Portions of Forbestown Road and Lumpkin Road.

B. Goals, Policies and Actions

Goal COS-18 **Maintain and enhance the quality of Butte County's scenic and visual resources.**

Policies

COS-P18.1 Views of Butte County's scenic resources, including water features, unique geologic features, and wildlife habitat areas, shall be maintained.*

COS-P18.2 Ridgeline development near scenic resources shall be limited via the adoption of specific development guidelines to minimize visual impacts.*

FIGURE COS-7 COUNTY SCENIC HIGHWAYS

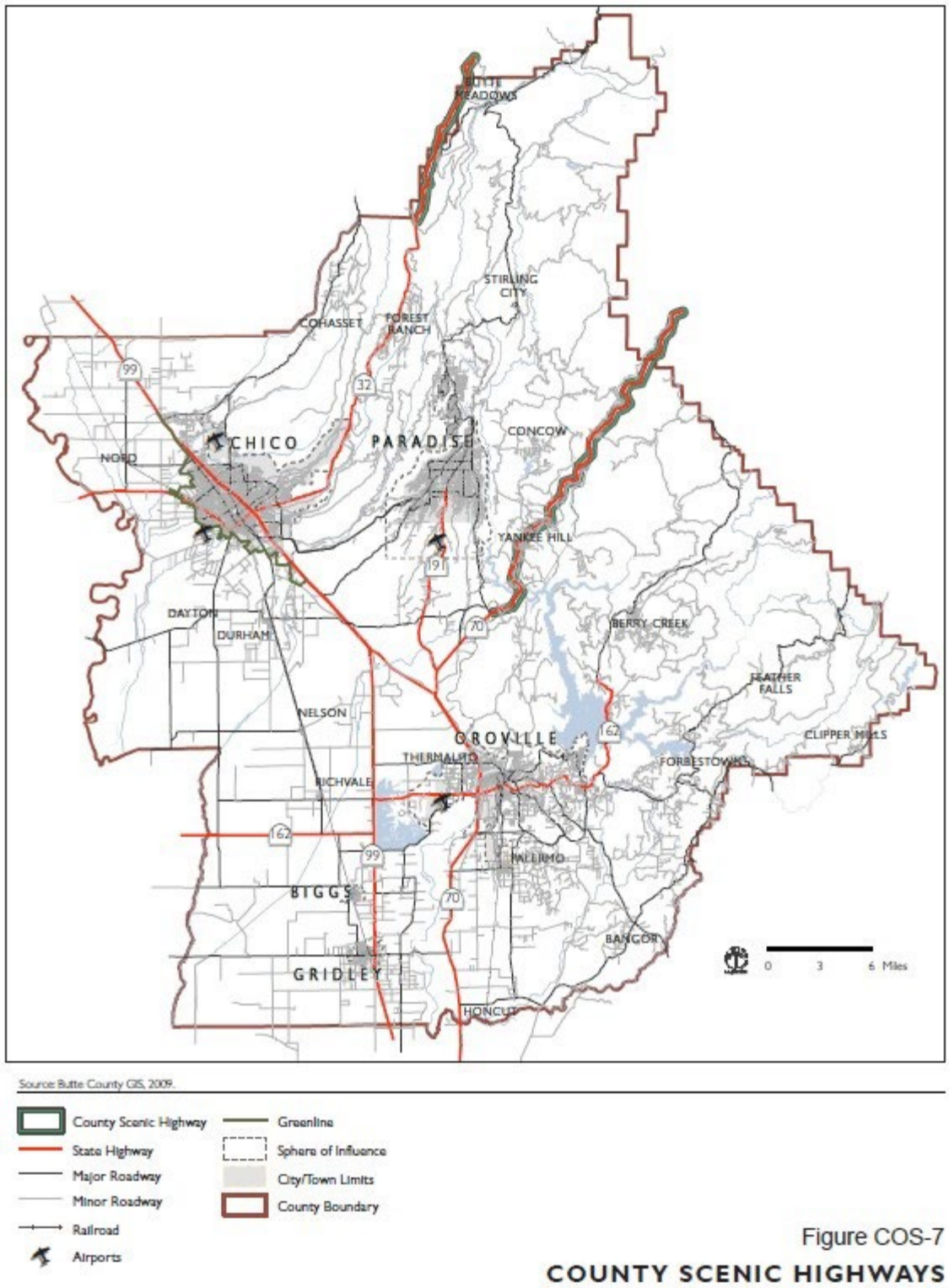
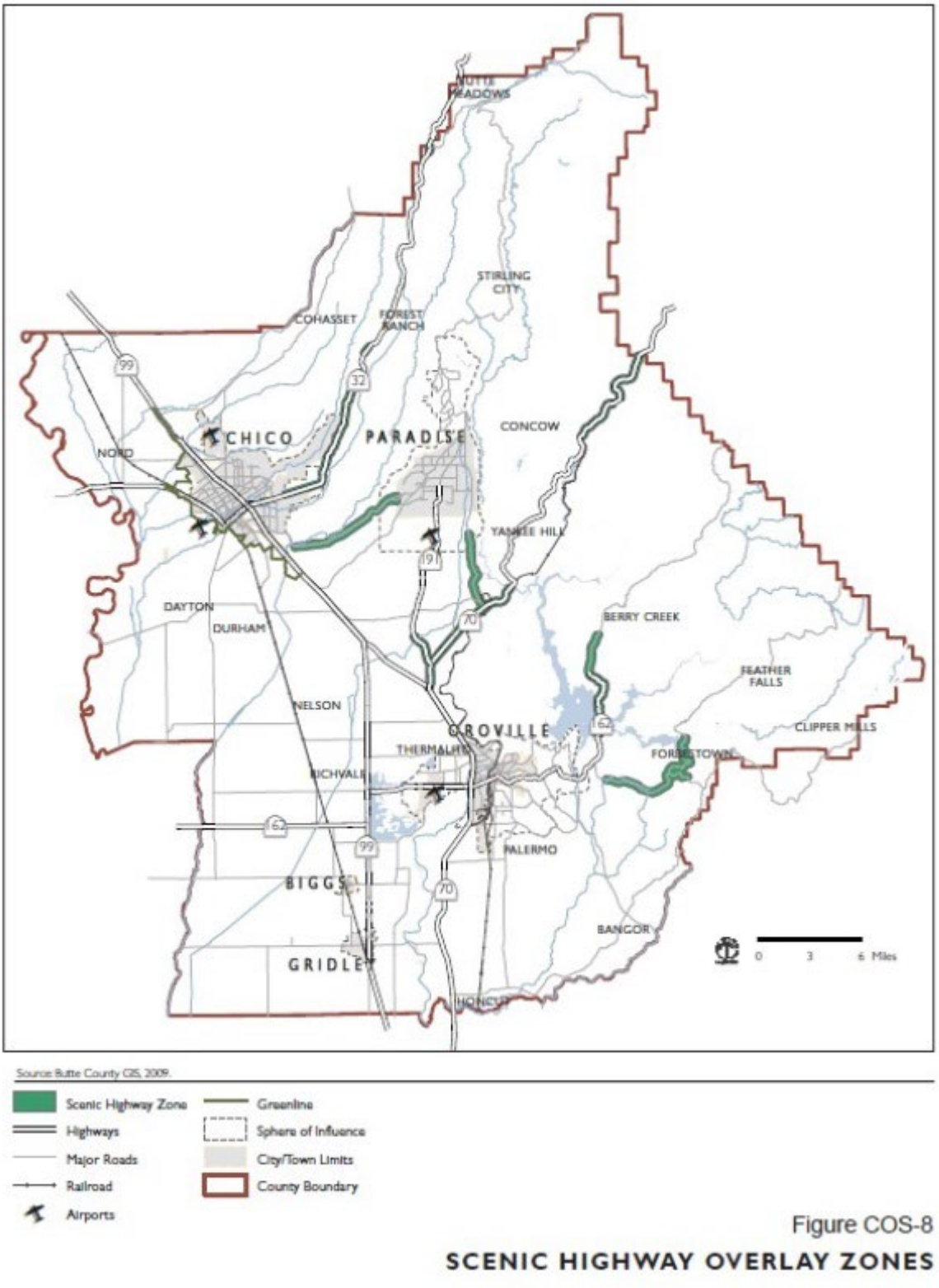


FIGURE COS-8 SCENIC HIGHWAY OVERLAY ZONES



Actions

COS-A18.1 Adopt development guidelines that mitigate the impacts of ridgeline development near scenic resources.

Goal COS-19 **Protect and enhance scenic areas adjacent to and visible from highways for enjoyment by residents and visitors.**

Policies

COS-P19.1 The County shall designate scenic corridors based on careful consideration of the following factors:

a. Relationship to the scenic highway system, including proximity to urban population centers, gateways, integration with other highways and scenic highways and access to major recreation areas.

b. Safety characteristics, including road surface and alignment, shoulder width, traffic levels, number of intersections, access points, turnouts, and rest areas.

c. Scenic characteristics, including vista points, geologic resources, native plant and animal species, waterways, historic resources and agricultural, timber and recreation uses.

d. Government policies, including public lands, eligibility for State scenic highway designation, and consistency with other Butte County General Plan 2030 elements.

e. Economic impacts on properties affected by a scenic highway designation.

COS-P19.2 To enhance safety on scenic highways, the County shall limit access, using existing access where feasible, and limit encroachment permits.

COS-P19.3 The County shall require utility companies to choose the least conspicuous locations for distribution lines, to avoid impacts to scenic corridors where there is reasonable choice.

Actions

COS-A19.1 Review the scenic highways program, considering the potential designation of new scenic highways, removal of existing scenic highway designations, and modifications to the scenic highway standards.

11 HEALTH AND SAFETY ELEMENT



The Butte County Fire Department has critical responsibilities for the safety of Butte County citizens and property. Photo courtesy of the Butte County Department of Development Services.

The Health and Safety Element provides information about risks in Butte County due to natural and human-made hazards. This Element contains goals, policies, and actions designed to protect the community and its property from hazards and noise.

As required by state law, the Health and Safety Element addresses the protection of the community from unreasonable risks. Specific topics covered are:

- Noise
- Flood Hazards and Dam Inundation
- Seismic and Geologic Hazards
- Fire Hazards
- Hazardous Materials
- Emergency Response and Disaster Preparedness
- Community Health
- Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience

Each section of this Element addresses one of these issues and is divided into the following sections:

- **Background Information:** Contains information on current risks from natural and human-made hazards. An expanded discussion about the existing noise environment in Butte County is available in Chapter 16 (Noise) of the Butte County General Plan 2040 Setting and Trends Report. Expanded discussions about flood hazards, seismic and geologic hazards, fire hazards, hazardous materials, climate change hazards, and emergency response are available in Chapter 17 (Hazards and Safety) of the Setting and Trends Report. Existing public health programs are discussed in Chapter 7 (Public Services).
- **Goals, Policies, and Actions:** Provides goals, policies, and actions that are designed to reduce the risks to health and property due to natural and human-made hazards.

This Health and Safety Element is consistent with and supportive of other County-led emergency management and hazard mitigation activities, including the County's Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP). In 2006, the state adopted Assembly Bill (AB) 2140, which added provisions specifying what is to be included in an LHMP and how to establish a linkage between a local jurisdiction's LHMP and the Safety Element of their General Plan. AB 2140 requires a jurisdiction to adopt the LHMP into the Safety Element of the General Plan to be fully eligible for disaster relief funding under the California Disaster Assistance Act. The LHMP is discussed further in the Emergency Response and Disaster Preparedness section of this Element. Key terms used in this Element are defined in APPENDIX E.

I. NOISE

A. Background Information

Noise is defined as a sound or series of sounds that are considered to be invasive, irritating, objectionable, and/or disruptive to the quality of daily life. Noise varies in its range, source, and volume and can originate from individual incidents, such as lawn mowers, to sporadic disturbances, such as car horns or train whistles, to more constant irritants, such as traffic along major arterials.

Noise is a concern throughout Butte County, but especially in rural areas and in the vicinity of noise-sensitive uses such as residences, schools, and churches.

Section 65302(f) of the California Government Code requires that all city and county General Plans contain a Noise Element that can be used as a guide for establishing a pattern of land uses that minimizes the exposure of community residents to excessive noise. Thus, local governments are required to analyze and quantify noise levels and the extent of noise exposure through field measurements or noise modeling and implement measures and possible solutions to existing and foreseeable noise problems.

This section describes the existing noise environment in Butte County, including the location of noise-sensitive land uses and major mobile and stationary noise sources. Table HS-1 provides definitions of the acoustical terminology used in this document.

1. Noise Sources in Butte County

There are several significant noise sources in Butte County. Mobile noise sources are those related to transportation. The major mobile noise sources in Butte County are roadway traffic, railroads, and airports. By far the most prevalent noise source is roadway traffic, which is a constant source of noise compared to the intermittent sounds from the county's railroads and airports. Railroad noise is evaluated using standards developed by the Federal Railroad Administration and the Federal Transit Administration. Airports are required to comply with the noise regulations and standards of the Federal Aviation Administration and Title 21 of the California Code of Regulations.

Table HS-1 Definition of Acoustical Terms	
Term	**Definitions**
Decibel, dB	A unit describing the amplitude of sound, equal to 20 times the logarithm to the base 10 of the ratio of the pressure of the sound measured to the reference pressure, which is 20 micropascals (20 micronewtons per square meter).
A-weighted sound level, dBA	The sound pressure level in decibels as measured on a sound level meter using the A-weighting filter network. The A-weighting filter de-emphasizes the very low and very high frequency components of the sound in a manner similar to the frequency response of the human ear and correlates well with subjective reactions to noise. All sound levels in this report are A-weighted, unless reported otherwise.
Community noise equivalent level, CNEL	The average a-weighted noise level during a 24-hour day, obtained after addition of 5 decibels in the evening from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. and after addition of 10 decibels to sound levels measured in the night between 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.
Day/night noise level, L_{dn}	The average a-weighted noise level during a 24-hour day, obtained after addition of 10 decibels to levels measured in the night between 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.
Equivalent sound level, L_{eq}	The average of sound energy occurring over a specified period. The L_{eq} is equivalent to the same average acoustical energy as the time-varying sound that actually occurs during a specified period.
Ambient noise level	The composite of noise from all sources near and far. The normal or existing level of environmental noise at a given location.
Intrusive	That noise which intrudes over and above the existing ambient noise at a given location. The relative intrusiveness of a sound depends upon its amplitude, duration, frequency and time of occurrence and tonal or informational content as well as the prevailing ambient noise level.

Stationary noise sources are typically associated with commercial, industrial, and public facilities. Significant stationary noise sources in unincorporated Butte County are the Neal Road Recycling and Waste Facility, solid waste transfer stations, aggregate mining operations, general service commercial and light industrial uses, recreational uses, and parks and school playing fields.

Noise exposures within industrial facilities are controlled by federal and state employee health and safety regulations through the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and the California Occupational Safety and Health Administration (Cal-OSHA), but even with regulations in place, exterior noise levels can exceed local noise standards. Recreational and public service facility activities can also produce noise that affects adjacent sensitive land uses. These noise sources can be continuous and may contain tonal components that may be annoying to individuals who live nearby. Noise from stationary noise sources that is perceived at sensitive uses may vary based on climatic conditions, time of day, and existing ambient noise levels.

Stationary noise sources that are typically of concern include the following:

- HVAC Systems
- Pump Stations
- Steam Valves
- Generators
- Air Compressors
- Cooling Towers/Evaporative Condensers
- Lift Stations
- Steam Turbines
- Fans
- Heavy Equipment

Conveyor Systems
Pile Drivers
Drill Rigs
Welders
Outdoor Speakers
Chippers
Loading Docks
Transformers
Grinders
Gas or Diesel Motors
Cutting Equipment
Blowers
Amplified Music and Voice

2. Land Use Compatibility

Noise-sensitive land uses are generally defined as locations where people reside or where the presence of unwanted sound could adversely affect the use of the land. Places where people live, sleep, recreate, worship, and study are generally considered to be sensitive to noise because intrusive noise can be disruptive to these activities. Land use compatibility standards between these uses and noise-producing transportation (i.e., mobile) and non-transportation (i.e., stationary) noise sources are provided in Tables HS-2 and HS-3. There are separate standards for transportation and non-transportation noise sources because they affect different types of noise- sensitive uses in different ways.

3. Existing and Future Noise Contours

Noise contours for current and projected conditions within the county are provided in Appendix C in terms of the Day-Night Average Level (Ldn), which is a descriptor of total noise exposure at a given location for an annual average day. Ldn is generally considered an equivalent descriptor of the community noise environment within plus or minus 1.0 dBA.

Noise contours for the four airports included within the Butte County Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan are shown in Appendix D. As shown in the Appendix D maps, the airport noise contours are affected by fire activity because the airport serves as the firefighting air tanker base for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE).

TABLE HS-2 MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE NOISE EXPOSURE TO TRANSPORTATION NOISE SOURCES

	Exterior Noise Level Standard for Outdoor Activity Areas[a]		Interior Noise Level Standard	
Land Use	**L_{dn}/CNEL, dB**	**L_{eq}, dBA[b]**	**L_{dn}/CNEL, dB**	**L_{eq}, dB[b]**
Residential	60[c]	--	45	--
Transient lodging	60[c]	--	45	--
Hospitals, nursing homes	60[c]	--	45	--
Theaters, auditoriums, music halls	--	--	--	35
Churches, meeting halls	60[c]	--	--	40
Office buildings	--	--	--	45
Schools, libraries, museums	--	70	--	45
Playgrounds, neighborhood parks	--	70	--	--

TABLE HS-2 MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE NOISE EXPOSURE TO TRANSPORTATION NOISE SOURCES				
	Exterior Noise Level Standard for Outdoor Activity Areas[a]		Interior Noise Level Standard	
Land Use	L_{dn}/CNEL, dB	L_{eq}, dBA[b]	L_{dn}/CNEL, dB	L_{eq}, dB[b]

Note: -- = not applicable.

a. Where the location of outdoor activity areas is unknown, the exterior noise-level standard shall be applied to the property line of the receiving land use.

b. As determined for a typical worst-case hour during periods of use.

c. Where it is not possible to reduce noise in outdoor activity areas to 60 dB Ldn/CNEL or less using a practical application of the best-available noise reduction measures, an exterior noise level of up to 65 dB Ldn/CNEL may be allowed, provided that available exterior noise-level reduction measures have been implemented and interior noise levels are in compliance with this table.

B. Goals, Policies, and Actions

Goal HS-1 **Maintain an acceptable noise environment in all areas of the county.**

Policies

HS-P1.1 New development projects proposed in areas that exceed the land use compatibility standards in Tables HS-2 and HS-3 shall require mitigation of noise impacts.*

HS-P1.2 Noise from transportation sources shall not exceed land use compatibility standards in Table HS-2.*

TABLE HS-3 MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE NOISE EXPOSURE TO NON-TRANSPORTATION SOURCES						
	Daytime 7 a.m. – 7 p.m.		Evening 7 p.m. – 10 p.m.		Night 10 p.m. – 7 a.m.	
Noise Level Description	DESIGNATION					
	Urban	Non-Urban	Urban	Non-Urban	Urban	Non-Urban
Hourly L_{eq}, dB	55	50	50	45	45	40
Maximum Level, dB	70	60	60	55	55	50

TABLE HS-3 MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE NOISE EXPOSURE TO NON-TRANSPORTATION SOURCES						
	Daytime 7 a.m. – 7 p.m.		Evening 7 p.m. – 10 p.m.		Night 10 p.m. – 7 a.m.	
Noise Level Description	DESIGNATION					
	Urban	Non-Urban	Urban	Non-Urban	Urban	Non-Urban

Notes:

1. "Non-Urban designations" are Agriculture, Timber Mountain, Resource Conservation, Foothill Residential and Rural Residential. All other designations are considered "urban designations" for the purposes of regulating noise exposure.
2. Each of the noise levels specified above shall be lowered by 5 dB for simple tone noises, noises consisting primarily of speech or music, or for recurring impulsive noises. These noise level standards do not apply to residential units established in conjunction with industrial or commercial uses (e.g., caretaker dwellings).
3. The County can impose noise level standards which are up to 5 dB less than those specified above based upon determination of existing low ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project site.
4. In urban areas, the exterior noise level standard shall be applied to the property line of the receiving property. In rural areas, the exterior noise level standard shall be applied at a point 100 feet away from the residence. The above standards shall be measured only on property containing a noise sensitive land use. This measurement standard may be amended to provide for measurement at the boundary of a recorded noise easement between all affected property owners and approved by the County.
5. If the ambient noise level exceeds that permitted by any of the categories in Table HS-3, the allowable noise limit shall be increased in 5 dBA increments in that category to encompass the ambient noise level.

HS-P1.3 New noise-sensitive land uses shall not be within the 55 Ldn contour of airports, roadways, and other noise-generating uses, with the exception of the Chico Municipal Airport.*

HS-P1.4 New noise-sensitive land uses shall not be within the 60 Ldn contour of the Chico Municipal Airport.*

HS-P1.5 Noise from new recreational activities and events shall not exceed 60 dB at the nearest noise-sensitive land use.

HS-P1.6 Applicants proposing a new noise-producing development project near existing or planned noise-sensitive uses shall provide a noise analysis prepared by an acoustical specialist with recommendations for design mitigation.

HS-P1.7 Applicants for discretionary permits shall be required to limit noise- generating construction activities within 1,000 feet of residential uses to daytime hours between 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. on weekdays and non-holidays.

HS-P1.8 Noise from generators shall be regulated near existing and future residential uses.

HS-P1.9 The following standard construction noise control measures shall be required at construction sites to minimize construction noise impacts:*

a. Equip all internal combustion engine-driven equipment with intake and exhaust mufflers that are in good condition and appropriate for the equipment.

b. Locate stationary noise-generating equipment as far as possible from sensitive receptors when sensitive receptors adjoin or are near a construction project area.

c. Use quiet air compressors and other stationary noise-generating equipment where appropriate technology exists and is feasible.*

HS-P1.10 To reduce impacts from groundborne vibration associated with rail operations, residences, or other vibration-sensitive buildings shall be sited at least 100 feet from the centerline of the nearest railroad track whenever feasible. Development of vibration-sensitive buildings, such as those containing precision medical and industrial equipment or television, radio, and recording studios, within 100 feet from the centerline of the nearest railroad track shall require a study demonstrating that groundborne vibration issues associated with rail operations have been adequately addressed through building siting or construction techniques.

II. FLOOD HAZARDS AND DAM INUNDATION

A. Background Information

Flooding is a concern throughout Butte County. This section discusses floodplains, levee safety, floodplain development regulations, and dam inundation.

1. Floodplains

Butte County has historically been subject to flooding from various rivers and creeks, most particularly from the Feather and Sacramento Rivers. Approximately 489,421 acres, or 35 percent, of the unincorporated area of Butte County is in a designated flood hazard area.[1] The County has completed an assessment of flooding hazards as part of the Butte County LHMP. The following are the principal areas subject to flooding in Butte County:

- Butte Creek
- Little Chico Creek
- Little Chico Creek Diversion
- Mud Creek, Sand Creek, Keefer Slough, and Rock Creek
- Ruddy Creek and Ruddy Creek Tributary
- Sycamore Creek
- Wyman Ravine, Wyandotte Creek, and associated and tributaries and others near Palermo
- Comanche Creek
- Butte Basin Overflow area for the Sacramento River

In addition to these streams, flooding in Rock Creek and Keefer Slough, north of Chico, occurred on several occasions in each of the last four decades, inundating State Routes (SR-) 99 and 32 and several county roadways, as well as impacting extensive residential and agricultural areas in and around the North Chico area and the unincorporated community of Nord. In addition, Dry Creek-Cherokee Canal poses a flood risk to the Richvale area, including rice research grounds, rice storage, and chemical storage facilities.

Flooding was much more prevalent and more of a risk prior to various state and federal flood-control projects, as well as various development restrictions enforced by Butte County. However, many flood management facilities need improvements and flooding remains an issue that Butte County regulatory agencies are seeking to address, in part through mapping flood hazard areas and studying flood hazards.

The following local, state, and federal agencies have responsibility for flood protection: US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), California Department of Water Resources (DWR), Central Valley Flood Protection Board (CVFPB), and Butte County Service Area 24.

- The USACE is responsible for federal levees and canals such as the Mud Creek earthen levees, Little Chico-Butte Creek, Butte Creek earthen diversions, the Cherokee Canal, and the Feather River earthen levees.
- DWR is responsible for channel maintenance on the Chico/Mud Creeks project. In addition, DWR is responsible for operation and maintenance (including levee and channel maintenance) of all other project facilities on Butte Creek, Cherokee Canal, Big Chico Creek as it runs through Chico, Little Chico Creek Diversion to Butte Creek, and the Sacramento River. Developments or encroachments into these areas are subject to a permit from the CVFPB.
- Butte County Service Area 24 is only responsible for the Federal Flood Control Project levees on the Chico/Mud Creeks and Sandy Gulch (Sycamore to Mud Creek) Flood Control Project.

a. 100-Year Floodplains

Nationally, FEMA prepares guidance and sets requirements for floodplain management. FEMA provides both paper Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) and Q3 flood data, which was developed to support floodplain management and planning activities but does not replace the official paper FIRMs. FEMA prepared the most recent FIRMs in January 2022.

FEMA manages the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), which provides insurance to communities that participate in the program and works with state and local agencies to adopt floodplain management policies and flood mitigation measures. Federal flood insurance is required for any structure within a Special Flood Hazard Zone (zones designated by FEMA as Zone A, AE, AO, or AH) for any property that has a federally insured loan. FEMA flood information for the county was most recently updated in January 2011. More detailed information on FEMA flood zones, maps, and regulations may be found at http://msc.fema.gov/ and through the Butte County Department of Public Works. Butte County regulations concerning development in floodplains are contained in Article IV of Chapter 26 of the Butte County Code.

A key element of the NFIP is the identification of floodplain boundaries, which are depicted on FEMA FIRMs. The concept of the 100-year flood (also termed the “base flood”), is a central component in FIRM mapping. The 100-year flood represents a flood event that is likely to occur once every 100 years or, stated differently, that has a 1-percent chance of occurring in any given year. FEMA mapping of flood hazard zones for all of Butte County has been completed with the most accurate and up-to- date information derived from the January 2011 FIRM mapping. The Butte County LHMP uses information from the August 2017 FEMA data. FEMA refers to land areas subject to the 100-year flood event as Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs). SFHAs indicate the level of analysis conducted, potential flood depths, and insurance requirements in a given area.

b. 200-Year Floodplains

Pursuant to the provisions of Senate Bill (SB) 5 (2007), SB 17 (2007), and Assembly Bill (AB) 162 (2007), which are discussed further in Section A.4, DWR and the CVFPB adopted the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan (CVFPP) in 2017. As required by AB 162, Butte County has incorporated CVFPP measures into this HEALTH AND SAFETY ELEMENT of the General Plan by including the new 200-year floodplains; levees and levee flood protection zones; dam mapping and dam inundation zones; and a more extensive flood risk analysis. This analysis considers the following:

- New floodplain data [DWR Best Available Maps, based on a 2002 USACE study]
- The impact of local and regional flood protection projects to potential new development (e.g., Feather River West Levee Project)
- Critical facilities, roadways, and other infrastructure most at risk for flood damage (LHMP).

SB 5 authorized DWR to develop the Best Available Maps displaying 100- and 200- year floodplains for areas located in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley watershed. SB 5 requires that these maps contain the best available information on flood hazards and be provided to cities and counties in the valley watershed. The Best Available Maps use data from multiple sources including FEMA Digital FIRMs, FEMA Q3 flood data, DWR Awareness Mapping, and USACE and other regional agency studies. The County has used these mapping sources to identify 200-year floodplain areas in Butte County.

The County has also incorporated measures recommended in the CVFPP into the Zoning Ordinance. The CVFPP recommends a range of policy and implementation measures, including, but not limited to, ensuring access to levees for repair, conveying information and transparency of flood risk to affected community members, requiring additional coordination between agencies, and locating critical facilities outside 100- year and 200-year floodplains when possible.

AB 162 and the CVFPP established certain flood protection requirements for local land use decision-making. This law set a higher standard for flood protection in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley area, which covers the entire Delta region, including Butte County. This higher level of flood protection—the urban level of flood protection (ULOP)—must withstand flooding that has a 1-in-200 chance (200-year flood) of occurring in any given year according to criteria developed by DWR.

Several limitations apply to implementing the ULOP:

- The ULOP applies only in urban or urbanizing areas. Government Code Section 65007 defines an “urban area” as a developed area in which there are 10,000 residents or more. An “urbanizing area” is a developed area or an area outside a developed area that is planned or anticipated to have 10,000 residents or more within the next 10 years. The Chico area is currently the only area in the mid- and upper Sacramento Regional Flood Management Plan (RFMP) regions that meets the definition of urban or urbanizing, but it is not within the most current 200-year floodplain map.
- The ULOP does not apply to local drainages. Local drainages are defined by DWR as localized conditions that may occur anywhere in a community, such as localized rainfall, water from stormwater and related drainage problems, and water from temporary water and wastewater distribution system failure. Generally, watersheds shorter than 10 miles in length are considered local drainages.
- The ULOP applies only to areas in which a 200-year flood event would result in flooding of greater than 3 feet.

Areas subject to the 200-year flood (urban or urbanizing, not local drainages, and flooding resulting in more than 3 feet) must meet the ULOP requirements. DWR and USACE have developed 200-year floodplain maps, but not all maps for the county include flood depths, so additional analysis may be necessary to determine if areas within the 200-year floodplain are subject to flood depths of greater than 3 feet.

SB 5 required DWR to prepare preliminary maps for 200-year floodplains protected by project levees and to provide such maps or notice of availability of other flood risk information to cities and counties in the Central Valley by 2008. The 200-year floodplain mapping provided by DWR to Butte County is derived from a 2002 study prepared by the USACE, focused on flooding from the Sacramento River. This study does not include flood depth information. This data source represents the DWR’s Best Available Map for the 200-year floodplain for Butte County. As shown, the 200-year floodplains are along Butte County’s western edge.

Any new development proposed in areas determined to be within the 200-year floodplain may be required to comply with the ULOP. Per the provisions of SB 5 and AB 162, the County must make a finding related to the proposed development in these areas and determine if the ULOP applies. This review and the findings will be based on Zoning Code Section 24-47.1, Urban Flood Protection Overlay Zone, and Buildings Code Article IV, Flood Hazard Prevention. The following agencies and programs provide additional information about flood hazards in Butte County. Figures HS-1, HS-2A, HS-2B, and HS-3 show the 100-year, 200-year, and 500-year floodplains identified by these agencies, the Urban Flood Protection Overlay, as well as local and regional studies. Maps referenced below are also available through the Butte County Department of Public Works.

- **USACE.** The USACE provides information about flood hazards in the Sacramento and San Joaquin River basins. Maps are available on the USACE Sacramento District website.
- **DWR Floodplain Evaluation and Delineation.** DWR currently provides maps and studies about floodplains. Maps are available on the DWR website, Floodplain Management section.
- **DWR-Designated Floodway Maps.** A designated floodway is defined as a channel of a river or other watercourse and the adjacent land areas that must be reserved to discharge the base flood without cumulatively increasing the water surface elevation more than a designated height. Communities must regulate development in these floodways to ensure there are no increases in upstream flood elevations. DWR provides designated floodway maps for the Sacramento and Feather Rivers. DWR does not use the FEMA definition of a floodway and instead uses the following definition: “The channel of a stream and that portion of the adjoining floodplain required to reasonably provide for the construction of a project for passage of the design flood including the lands necessary for construction of project levees that are regulated by the Central Valley Flood Protection Board.” Designated floodways in Butte County, including the Sacramento and Feather River floodways, are available on the DWR website, Floodplain Management section.

FIGURE HS-1 FEMA FLOOD HAZARD AND DWR AWARENESS ZONES

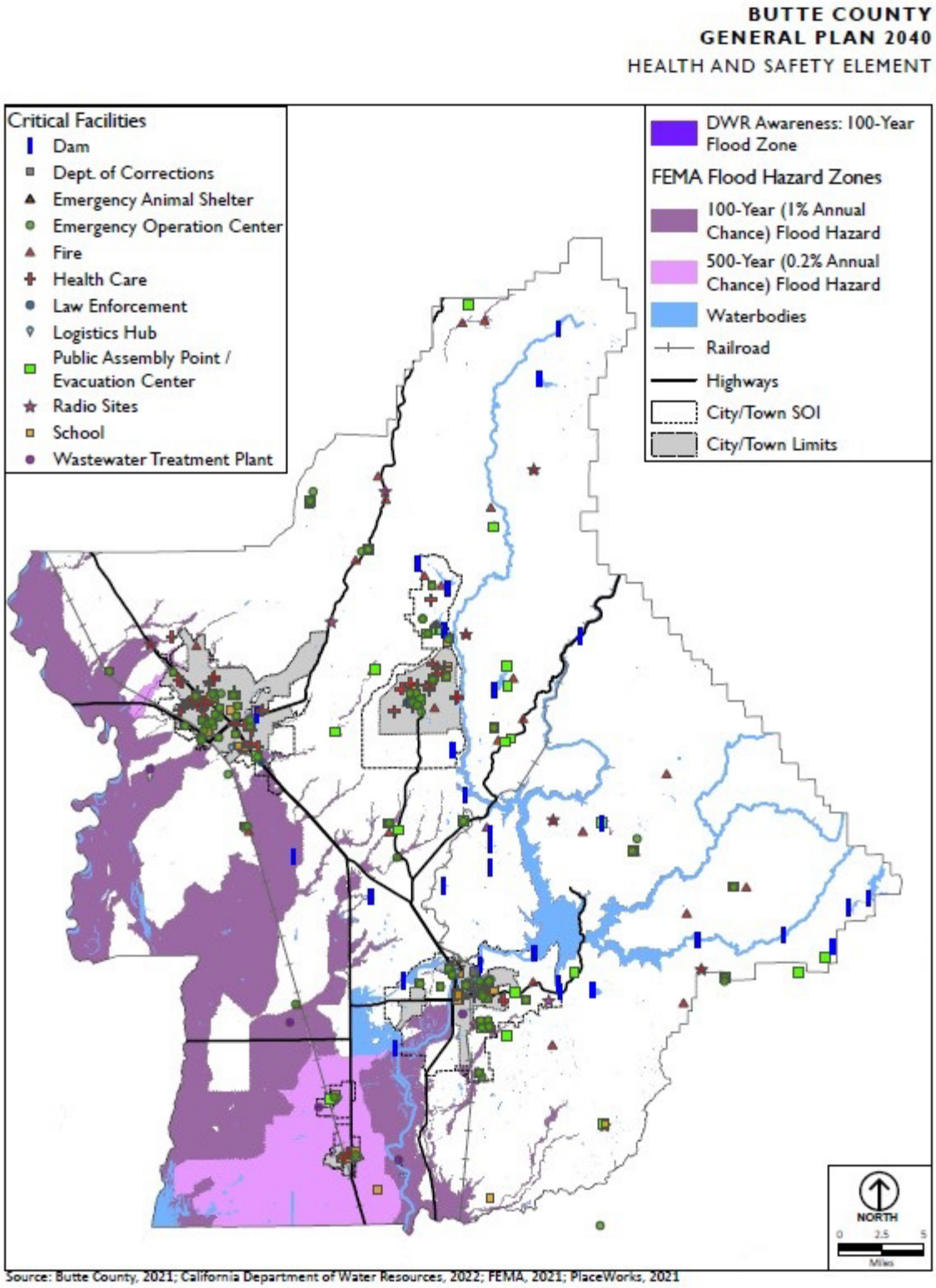


FIGURE HS-1

FEMA FLOOD HAZARD AND DWR AWARENESS ZONES

FIGURE HS-2A USACE 100-YEAR, 200-YEAR, AND 500-YEAR STUDIES

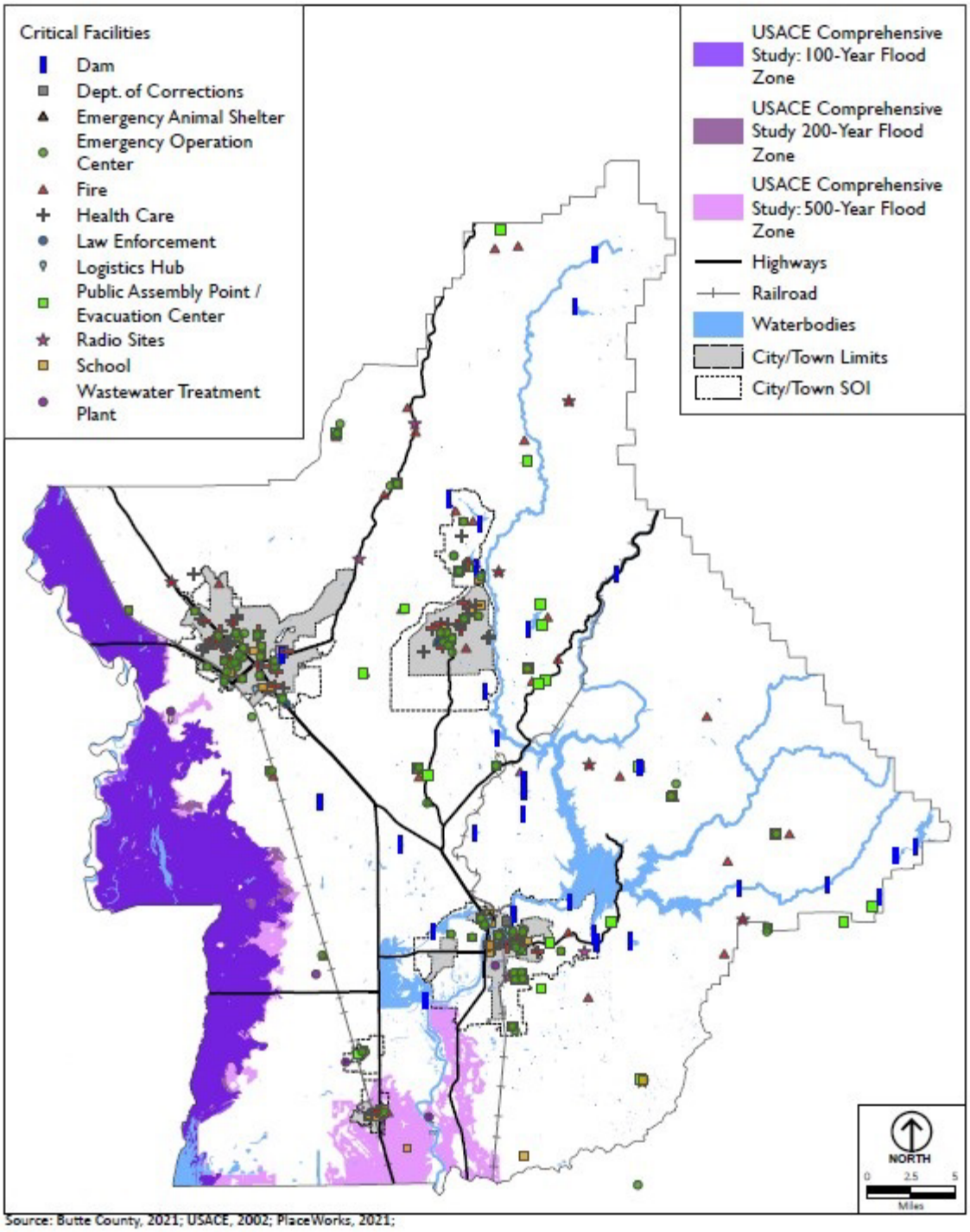
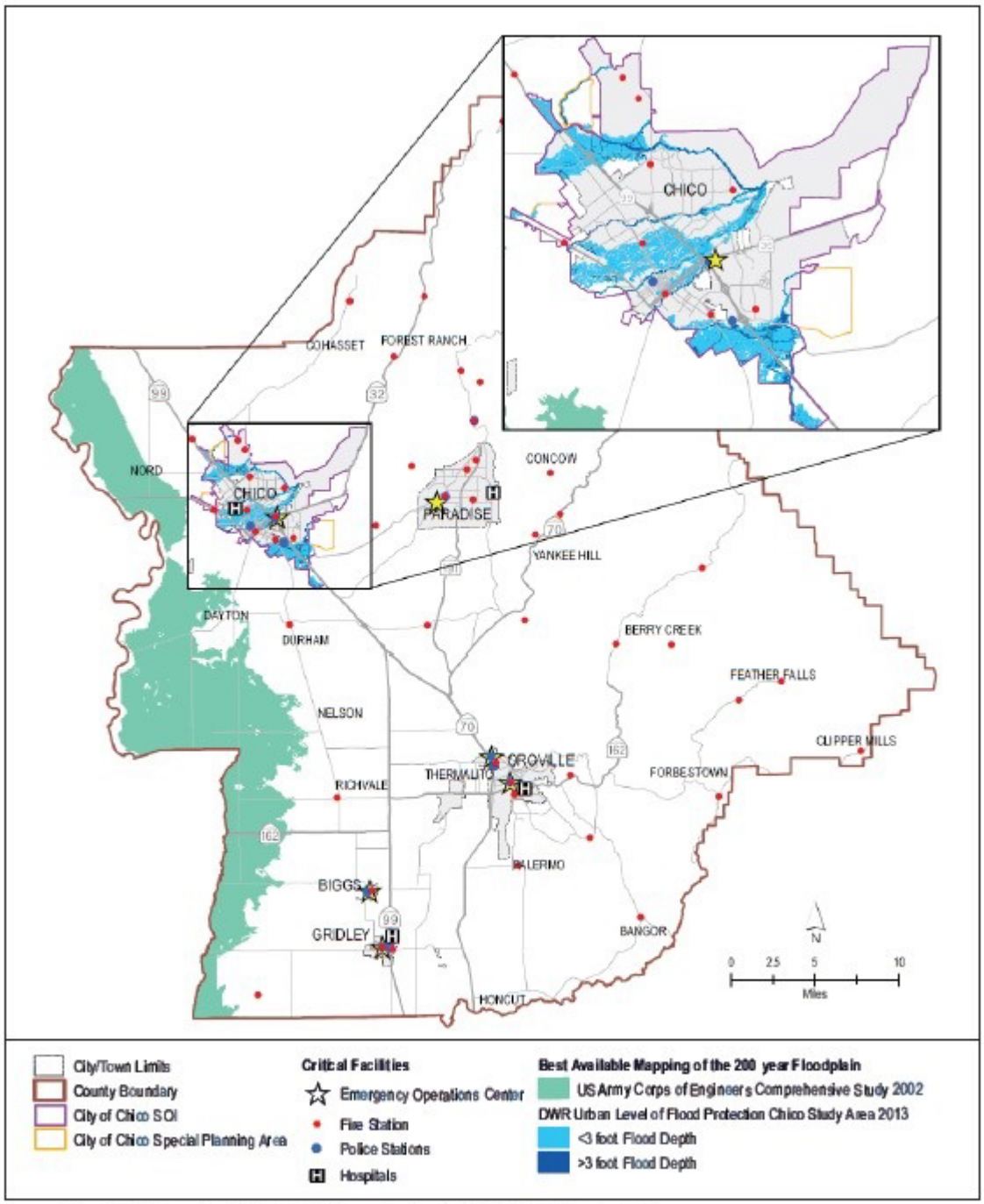


FIGURE HS-2A

USACE 100-YEAR, 200-YEAR, AND 500-YEAR STUDIES

FIGRE HS-B URBAN FLOOD PROTECTION OVERLAY



Source: Michael Baker International, 2016; USACE Comprehensive Study, 2002; DWR Urban Level of Flood Protection Informational Map, 2013; Butte County, 2016.

FIGURE HS-2B

URBAN FLOOD PROTECTION OVERLAY

FIGURE HS-3 REGIONAL/SPECIAL STUDIES: 100- AND 500-YEAR FLOODS

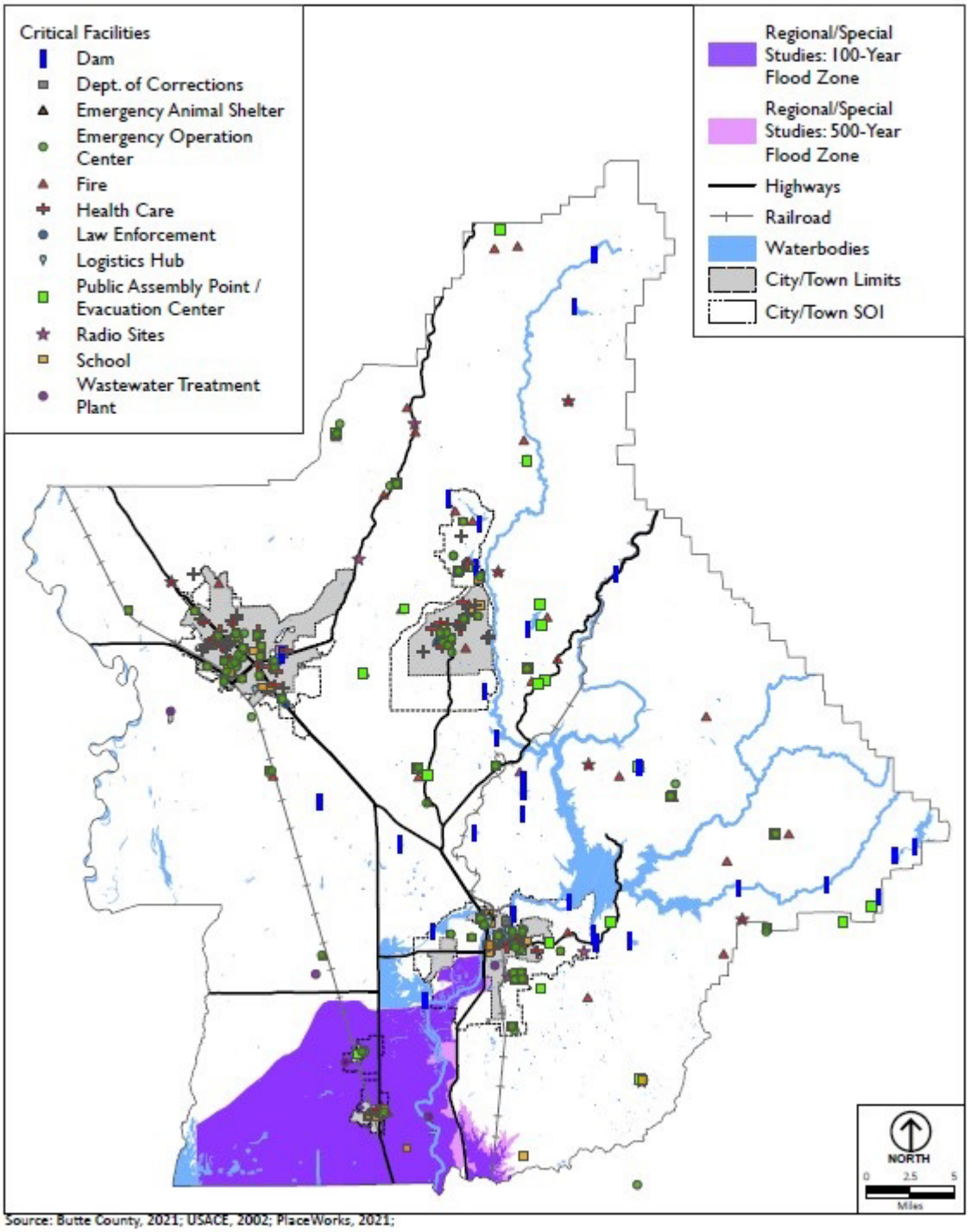


FIGURE HS-3

REGIONAL/SPECIAL STUDIES: 100- AND 500-YEAR FLOODS

- **DWR Awareness Floodplain Mapping Program**. This program identifies flood hazard areas that are not mapped by FEMA's NFIP maps, which are only created for areas within FEMA-designated floodplains. Awareness floodplain maps are updated more frequently and can be targeted and prepared for a community or intent. Maps are available on the DWR website, Floodplain Management section.
- **Project Levees and Levee Protection Zones**. DWR has mapped inundation areas for levees that are part of state and federal water projects in the Central Valley. Project levees and levee protection zones in Butte County are shown on Figure HS-4.
- **Non-Project Levee Failure Inundation Areas.** DWR has mapped areas subject to inundation in the event of failure of levees or floodwalls that are not part of state or federal water projects. These levees are known as "non-project" levees because they may not have been built or maintained to state or federal standards, which can increase the likelihood of failure and inundation. Non-project levees in Butte County are also shown on Figure HS-4.

Critical Facilities in Butte County

DWR recommends that jurisdictions evaluate critical facilities in the context of flood mitigation. These facilities are identified in Chapter 4 of the Butte County LHMP. Certain facilities are necessary for effective response in the case of a flood:

- Public safety: police stations, fire and rescue stations, and emergency operations centers.
- Emergency response: emergency vehicle and equipment storage and essential governmental work centers, such as City Halls or Public Works offices, for continuity of government operations.
- Emergency medical: hospitals, emergency care, urgent care, and ambulance services.
- Designated emergency shelters.
- Communications: main hubs for telephone, main broadcasting equipment for television systems, radio, and other emergency warning systems.
- Public utility plant facilities: including equipment for treatment, generation, storage, pumping and distribution (hubs for water, wastewater, power, and gas).
- Essential government operations: public records, courts, jails, building permitting and inspection services, government administration and management, maintenance and equipment centers, and public health facilities.

FIGURE HS-4 LEVEES AND LEVEE FLOOD PROTECITON ZONES

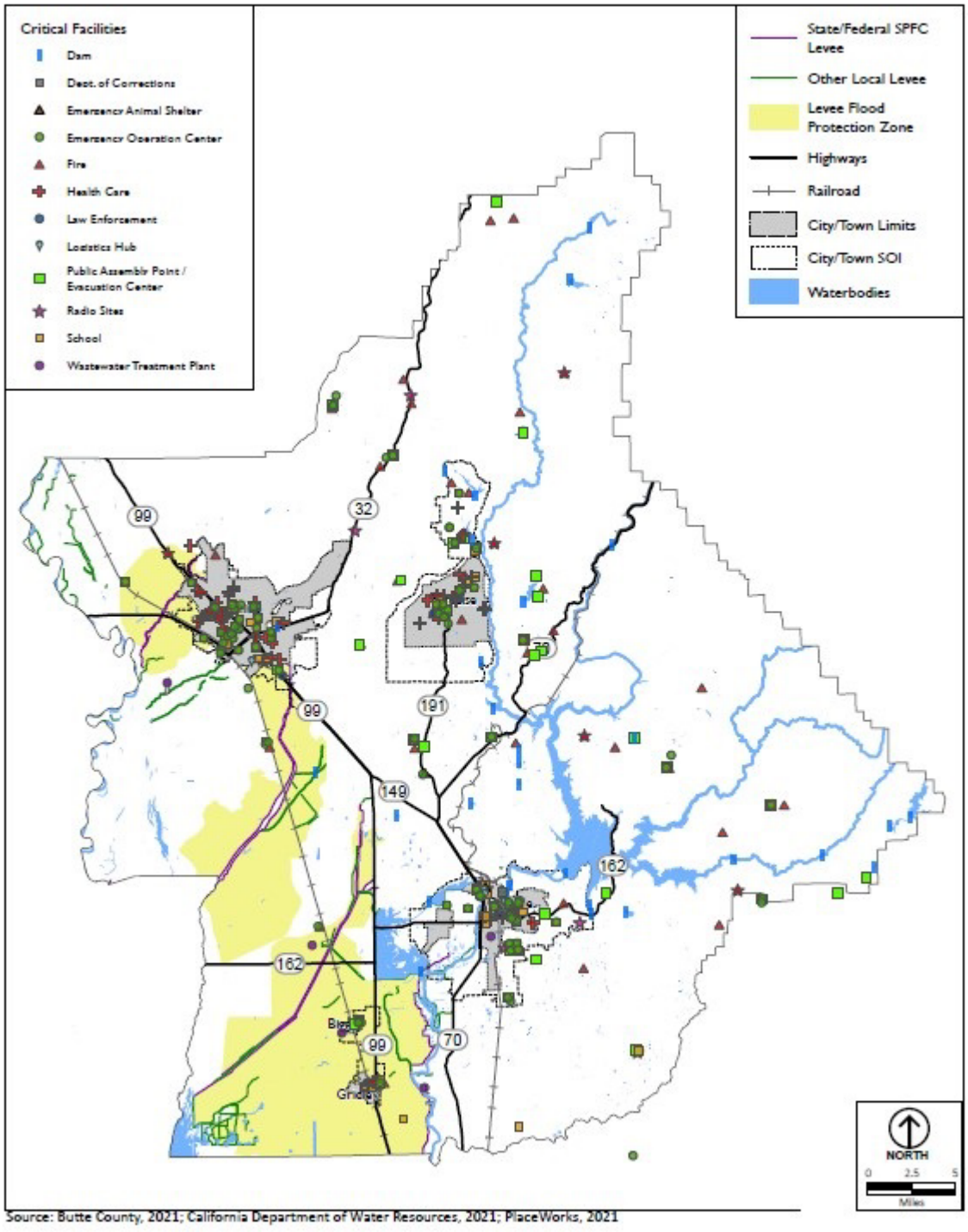


FIGURE HS-4

LEVEES AND LEVEE FLOOD PROTECTION ZONES

- At-risk population facilities: schools, daycare centers, group homes, assisted living residential or congregate care facilities.
- Hazardous materials facilities: facilities that could release hazardous materials in sufficient amounts during a hazard event that would create harm to people, the environment, or property.

The location of these critical facilities and their level of protection from floods are important determinants for how well the County will be able to respond in a flood event. Several critical facilities, including essential services and at-risk population facilities, are within the 100-year and 500-year floodplains. In the unincorporated county, 18 facilities are in the 100-year floodplain (12 dams, 1 wastewater treatment plant, 2 fire stations, 1 emergency animal shelter, 1 school, and 1 evacuation center) and 2 facilities are in the 500-year floodplain (1 fire station and 1 school). Several critical facilities in the unincorporated county are also located within dam inundation areas, including two wastewater treatment plants, three fire stations, four dams, and six schools.[2] Some of these facilities must be located in specific areas to provide effective and timely service in an emergency event. New facilities that do not have to be located in certain areas for adequate service should be sited outside of 100- and 200-year floodplains. These measures are consistent with the CVFPP.

2. Levee Safety

Butte County has a number of levees constructed by both private individuals and government agencies. Many of these levees are aging and may need repair and maintenance to adequately control flood flows. Generally, levees fail from overtopping or collapse. A catastrophic levee failure resulting from collapse would occur quickly with little warning. Levees may fail because of earthquake-induced slumping, landslides, or liquefaction. Land subsidence adjacent to levees may increase water pressure against levees, adding to the potential for levee failure. In addition, many non- project levees are not maintained to specified standards, which can increase the likelihood of failure and inundation.

a. FEMA Evaluation

FEMA evaluates levees to determine whether an area is protected from a 100-year flood by a levee. FEMA has adopted criteria to make these determinations. These criteria consider whether a particular segment of a levee has been certified to meet the criteria to withstand the 100-year flood event. According to the 2011 FIRMs, FEMA did not certify a number of levees in Butte County because they did not meet FEMA criteria.

Levees on the following creeks do not meet FEMA's standards:

- Butte Creek (downstream of the Skyway)
- Hamlin Slough
- Little Chico Creek (downstream of the Butte Creek Diversion Channel)
- Comanche Creek
- Cherokee Canal
- Rock Creek[3]

During intense storms, water could flow over the top of these levees and break out of the channel, usually not returning to the main channel for several thousand feet downstream, if at all. Therefore, the areas on the landside of these levees are shown on the 1998, 2000, 2011, and 2017 FIRMs as being subject to inundation during a 100- year flood event. The 100-year floodplain, shown in Figure HS-1, identifies the flood hazard zones, which includes all the areas subject to inundation in such an event.

b. DWR Evaluation

DWR has also evaluated the levee system in areas protected by Central Valley state and federal project levees for the purposes of determining whether these areas are protected from a 200-year flood and identifying the levees that are in the greatest need of repair or improvement. DWR has identified areas where flood levels would be more than 3 feet deep if a project levee were to fail or be overtopped; these areas are known as levee flood protection zones (LFPZs). DWR used information from several sources currently available to determine LFPZs, including FEMA flood data, the USACE's 2002 Sacramento and San Joaquin River Basins Comprehensive Study, and local project-levee studies.

There are four project levees in the county. These levees run along the Cherokee Canal, Butte Creek, and the Butte Creek diversion channel, and along the south side of the Chico/Mud Creek system. The locations of project and non-project levees, as well as LFPZs related to these levees, are shown in Figure HS-4. LFPZs cover significant portions of southern and western Butte County.

3. Floodplain Regulatory Framework

Regulation of development in known flood-prone areas can reduce flooding risks to life and property. Butte County has a number of programs in place and works closely with various state and federal agencies and local watershed groups as part of its overall flood management strategy. The regulations related to flood-prone areas are as follows:

- **Central Valley Flood Protection Plan.** According to California Government Code Sections 65302.9 and 65860.1, every jurisdiction in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley is required to update its general plan and zoning ordinance in a manner consistent with the CVFPP. In addition, the locations of the state and local flood management facilities, the locations of flood hazard zones, and the properties in these areas must be mapped consistent with the CVFPP.
- **SB 5, SB 17, and AB 162.** As part of SB 5 (Machado and Wolk), SB 17 (Florez), and AB 162 (Wolk), urban and urbanizing areas in the Sacramento Valley and San Joaquin Valley were required to achieve, or make adequate progress toward achieving, 200-year storm flood protection by the year 2016 to continue to approve development in the floodplain. Specifically, AB 162 requires that each local jurisdiction's Safety Element include 200-year floodplain maps. Maps must be based on the best available data on flood protection, including areas protected by state and federal project levees, and areas outside of these areas.
- **Permit Approval.** California Government Code Sections 65865.5, 65962, and 66474.5 require certain findings to be made prior to granting approval or issuance of building permits within an identified 200-year floodplain. Specifically, the County must find that a flood management facility protects the property to an urban level according to DWR standards or that progress has been made toward constructing a flood protection system that will provide an urban level of flood protection. The County must also require conditions of approval that will protect the property to an urban level of flood protection.
- **Flood Hazard Prevention Ordinance.** This County ordinance requires the Department of Development Services to review all applications for new construction or subdivisions in flood hazard areas and requires that the lowest floor of any new construction or substantial improvement in FEMA-designated 100-year floodplains (as shown on Figure HS-1) be elevated 1 foot or more above the regulatory flood elevation. Also, applicants must show that development within the floodplain will not raise the existing flood level in a manner that adversely affects any neighboring property. FEMA's 500-year floodplain shows areas that have a 0.2 percent probability of flooding every year. Properties in the 500-year floodplain are considered to be at moderate risk of flooding under the NFIP. Flood insurance is not required for properties in in the 500-year floodplain, and local floodplain zoning ordinances do not apply to the 500-year floodplain. FEMA's flood hazard zones are developed for the purpose of establishing NFIP requirements. The County Flood Hazard Prevention Ordinance also requires that the Department of Development Services review any proposed development agreement, tentative or parcel map, a subdivision or discretionary permit or

other discretionary entitlement, or any ministerial permit that would result in the construction of a new residence in USACE-designated 200-year floodplains (as shown in Figure HS-2A) and conduct findings in accordance with ULOP regulations.

- **Flooding Mitigation Actions.** These actions are part of the Butte County LHMP, which is described further in Section VI of this Element. The Action Plan contains a description of flood hazards, a risk assessment, plans and programs to address the hazards, and mitigation goals and strategies for each jurisdiction in Butte County.
- **On-Site Flood Control Measures.** The County's measures include, for example, retention or detention of peak runoff, clustering buildings and constructing narrower paved streets. On-site flood control measures are intended to decrease the amount and rate of stormwater runoff that could contribute to flood flows.

4. Dam Inundation

As of 2022, there are 24 dams in Butte County under the jurisdiction of the California Department of Water Resources Division of Safety of Dams, with inundation areas in the county. There are 10 additional dams in Butte County that are listed on Table 4-23 of the Butte County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan that are not under the jurisdiction of DWR because they are 25 feet or less in height and/or impound 50 acre-feet of water or less. An additional 16 dams located in Plumas County and Shasta County have dam failure inundation zones that reach Butte County. These dams provide the county and large sections of the state with drinking water, irrigation water, stock water, recreation, and power production. Most substantial among these is the Oroville Dam, located northeast of the city of Oroville, which has a storage capacity of over 3.5 million acre-feet. There are smaller dams at Lake Wyandotte, Lake Madrone, Lost Creek, Round Valley, Magalia Reservoir, and elsewhere. The failure of a dam may affect the dam site, downstream areas, floodwater routing, or all three. As shown, some dam failures would result in large-scale flooding directly at the dam site, while others may only affect downstream areas and floodwater routing. The dam inundation assessments show the results of technical studies completed and approved at a given time for a single dam. They do not consider likely damage, but rather illustrate the areas that may be inundated in such an event. The Dam Inundation Mapping Procedure is defined in Title 19, Division 2, Chapter 2, Section 2527 of the California Code of Regulations.

Any dam poses a potential risk of failure, which would most likely be caused from seismically induced ground shaking or other seismic events and which threatens the area below the dam with inundation. Since 1972, the state has required inundation maps for most dams, showing those areas within the potential dam failure inundation zone. Dam inundation areas for state and privately owned dams in Butte County are shown on Figure HS-5. The federal government maintains public maps of the dam inundation areas for federal dams, including the Black Butte, Whiskeytown, and Shasta Dams. The inundation zones of these

dams cover much of the southern and western portions of the county. Consideration of risks from dam inundation for these facilities is coordinated between the Bureau of Reclamation, Butte County Department of Development Services, and Butte County Office of Emergency Management (OEM). Most of the state- and privately-owned dams in Butte County would affect a relatively small local inundation area. However, the failure of the Oroville Dam or the Thermalito Afterbay Dam would have the potential to inundate a substantial portion of southwestern Butte County.

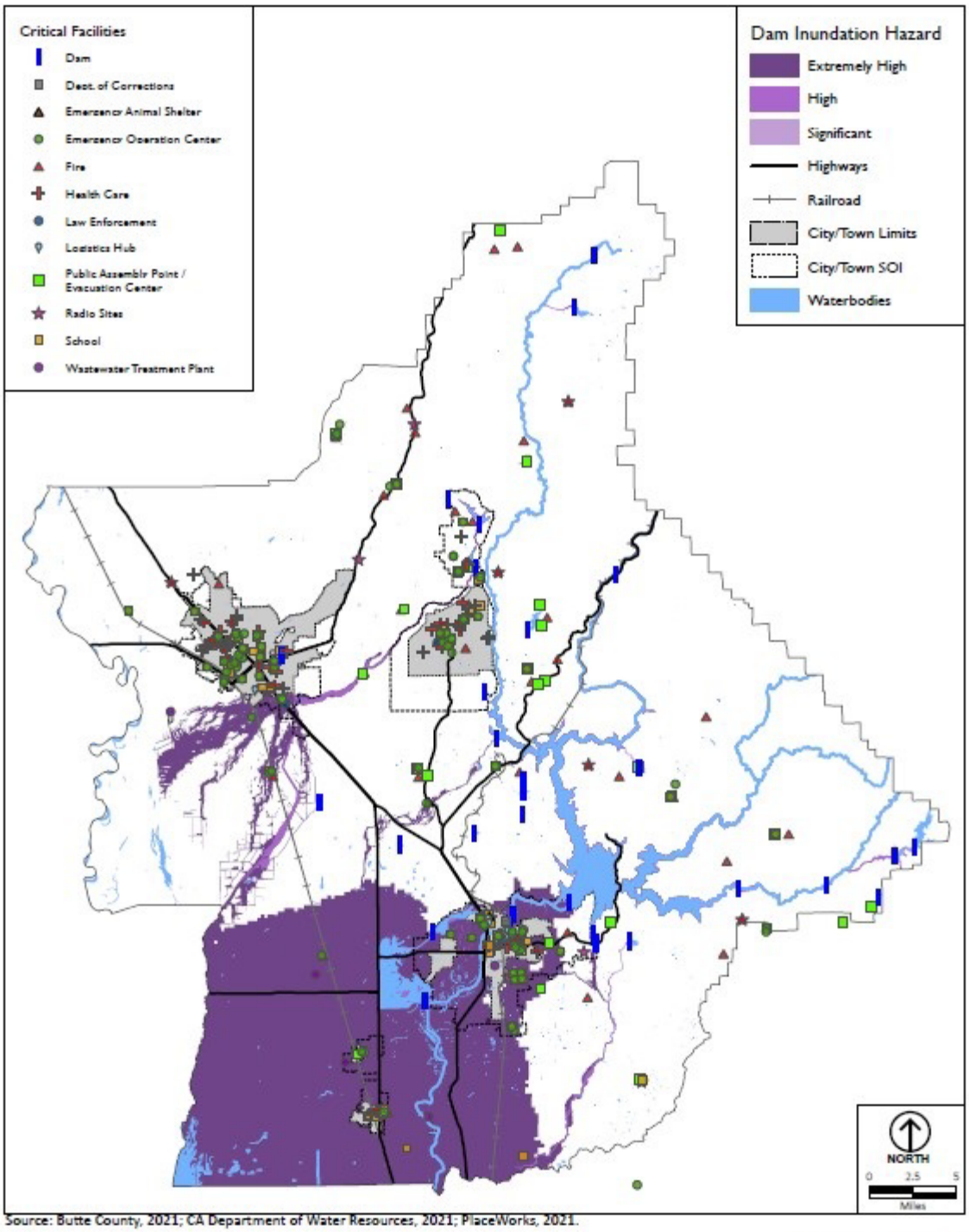


Oroville Dam. Photo courtesy of the Butte County Department of Development Services.

As of September 2022, of the 24 Division of Safety of Dams jurisdictional dams within Butte County, 21 have a satisfactory condition assessment, one has a fair conditions assessment (Oroville Dam), and two have a poor condition assessment (Grizzly Creek and Magalia Dams). A satisfactory condition is defined as no existing or potential dam safety deficiencies under all loading conditions. A fair condition assessment signifies there are no dam safety deficiencies under normal operating conditions, but extreme hydrologic and/or seismic events may result in a deficiency. A poor assessment means that there are deficiencies under normal operating conditions and remedial action is necessary. Grizzly Creek has reservoir operating restrictions.

The DWR also classifies dams based on the potential downstream impacts to life and property. Six of the dams within Butte County have low downstream hazards, which are defined as no probable loss of human life and low economic and environmental impacts. Three of the dams are defined as significant downstream hazards, which means no probable loss of human life but potential economic and environmental impacts. Eleven of the dams are classified as high downstream hazard, which means the loss of at least one human life is expected. And four of the dams (Oroville Dam, Paradise Dam, Thermalito Afterbay, and California Park Dam) are classified as having an extremely high downstream hazard, with the expectation of considerable loss of human life or an inundation area with a population of 1,000 people or more.

FIGURE HS-5 DAMS AND DAM INUMDATION AREAS



Source: Butte County, 2021; CA Department of Water Resources, 2021; PlaceWorks, 2021.

FIGURE HS-5

DAMS AND DAM INUNDATION AREAS

In 1992, Harlan Tate Associates studied the Magalia Dam and concluded that the upstream slope of the dam was found to have inadequate stability under seismic loading conditions. As of 2003, the water level in the reservoir was lowered 25 feet due to seismic stability concerns. In 2021 the Paradise Irrigation District conducted preliminary investigations, constraints and alternatives analysis, and 30 percent design of Magalia Dam retrofits that would address the seismic stability issues. As of early 2022, PID is in the process of proposal award for the remainder of the construction design and environmental permitting, as well as conceptual analysis of future widening of Skyway across the dam.

In February 2017, a heavy rainstorm caused flooding that damaged the main spillway of Oroville Dam on February 7. This caused DWR to stop the flow into the main spillway. The rain fell for several more days, causing the lake level to rise and flow over the emergency spillway, even when the main spillway was reopened to quickly drain the lake. The emergency spillway could not handle all the water, causing erosion to undermine the concrete weir. An evacuation order was given on February 12 for those living directly in the inundation zone, totaling approximately 188,000 people. Although no collapse occurred, the water further damaged the main spillway and eroded the bare slope of the emergency spillway. Following the February 2017 event, DWR initiated the Oroville Dam Safety Comprehensive Needs Assessment to assess risks associated with the Oroville Dam facilities and identify dam safety and operational needs. DWR and FEMA funded $1.1 billion in repairs to both the main spillway and emergency spillway. By 2018, the main spillway was fully reconstructed to final design and the emergency spillway was completed. Additional structures were added to the facilities to prevent uphill erosion if the emergency spillway is ever used again.

As part of the Butte County LHMP, Butte County has established Dam Failure Mitigation Actions. The Action Plan contains a description of dam failure hazards, a risk assessment, plans and programs to address the hazards, and mitigation goals and strategies for each jurisdiction in Butte County. The Butte County OEM also reviews the Emergency Action Plans for each of the dams within Butte County and participates in updates to the Emergency Action Plans.

5. Climate Change

Climate change has altered and is expected to continue to alter the frequency, intensity, and duration of extreme storm events, including heavy rainfall. Precipitation is projected to increase from an annual average of 42.3 to 46.7 inches per year by mid-century.[4] While this is only a 4.4-inch increase, precipitation patterns are also likely to change. More rain may fall over fewer storms throughout the year, meaning the storms may become more intense but less frequent by mid-century. Due to projected temperature increases in Butte County, more precipitation is expected to fall as rain instead of snow, increasing the amount of peak runoff downstream. These factors could lead to more flooding near rivers and creeks, as well as in low-lying areas in western Butte County. During large flooding events, areas in western Butte County may be susceptible to floodwaters from levee or dam failure. Dam failure is discussed in more detail in the previous section.

Floodwaters can be deep enough to drown people and may move fast enough to carry away people or heavy objects (such as cars). In some cases, floods can be strong enough to lift buildings off their foundations. Large flood events can affect essential utilities (such as wastewater and energy delivery), transportation, jobs, tourism, the environment, agricultural industry, and the local and regional economies.

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[1] Butte County. 2019. Butte County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, Chapter 4: Risk Assessment.

[2] Butte County. 2019. Butte County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Update. https://www.buttecounty.net/oem/mitigationplans.

[3] Rock Creek is managed by the Rock Creek Reclamation District, which maintains a number of levees uncertified by FEMA.

[4] California Energy Commission. 2018. "Annual Average Precipitation." https://cal-adapt.org/tools/annual-averages/, accessed February 22, 2021.

B. Goals, Policies, and Actions

Goal HS-2 Protect people and property from flood risk.

Policies

HS-P2.1 The County shall coordinate with federal, state, and local agencies to maintain and improve capacity of local and regional flood control systems, and to ensure a regional approach to addressing flood hazards.

HS-P2.2 The County supports the efforts of private landowners and public agencies to maintain existing flood management facilities.

HS-P2.3 The County supports the Flooding Mitigation Action Plan in the Butte County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan.

HS-P2.4 Development projects on lands within the 100-year flood zone, as identified on the most current available maps from FEMA (the most current available map at the time of the publication of General Plan 2040 is shown on Figure HS-1), shall be allowed only if the applicant demonstrates that it will not:*

a. Create danger to life and property due to increased flood heights or velocities caused by excavation, fill, roads, and intended use.

b. Create difficult emergency vehicle access in times of flood.

c. Create a safety hazard due to the height, velocity, duration, rate of rise and sediment transport of the flood waters expected at the site.

d. Create excessive costs in providing governmental services during and after flood conditions, including maintenance and repair of public facilities.

e. Interfere with the existing water conveyance capacity of the floodway.

f. Substantially increase erosion and/or sedimentation.

g. Require significant storage of material or any substantial grading or substantial placement of fill that is not approved by the County through a development agreement, discretionary permit, or other discretionary entitlement; a ministerial permit that would result in the construction of a new residence; or a tentative map or parcel map.

h. Place septic tank systems in areas that will be flooded, causing overflow of the system and/or contamination of water supplies.

i. Conflict with the provisions of the applicable requirements of Government Code Sections 65865.5, 65962, or 66474.5.

HS-P2.5 The lowest floor of any new construction or substantial improvement within 100-year floodplains, as shown in Figure HS-1 or the most current maps available from FEMA, shall be elevated 1 foot or more above the 100-year flood elevation. (County Flood Ordinance Sec. 26- 22).*

HS-P2.6 The County shall make specific findings consistent with the California Department of Water Resources Urban Level of Flood Protection Criteria within the 200-year floodplain, prior to

approval of a development agreement, tentative or parcel map, a subdivision or discretionary permit or other discretionary entitlement, or any ministerial permit that would result in the construction of a new residence. If a proposed development is within the Urban Level of Flood Protection Criteria, the County Flood Administrator must make a finding to ensure flood protection facilities are adequate and require new flood protection measures, as applicable.

HS-P2.7 The County shall not, and will encourage other agencies within its bounds to not, locate new essential government service facilities (as defined in Section 2) and essential health-care facilities in 100-year floodplains, as shown in Figure HS-1 or the most current maps available from FEMA, and within the 200-year floodplain, as shown in Figure HS-2A, and as defined in Government Code Section 65007. Existing essential facilities in these areas shall have heightened flood protection.

Actions

HS-A2.1 Continue to implement Zoning Code and Building Code requirements for flood protection findings in areas within the 200-year floodplain. Findings shall be consistent with current Central Valley Flood Protection Plan (CVFPP) standards for an Urban Level of Flood Protection (ULOP).

HS-A2.2 Annually review all areas subject to flooding as identified by FEMA for 100-year flood zones and the Department of Water Resources (DWR) for the 200-year floodplain. Make any changes identified through this review available to the public, and reference the revisions to reflect new mapping data during the development review process in these areas.

HS-A2.3 Continue seeking funding to evaluate, design, and implement projects to address flooding problems in the Keefer Slough/Rock Creek area.

HS-A2.4 Develop a method, such as a checklist and/or flow chart provided during development review, to aid potential project applicants in determining flood risk and to aid staff in determining if the Urban Level of Flood Protection requirements apply and making findings consistent with Senate Bill 5.

HS-A2.5 Harden wastewater infrastructure, including public and private infrastructure, in flood-prone areas to minimize the risk of overflow.

HS-A2.6 Annually provide flood protection safety information via social media, the County website, and in community gathering places, such as grocery stores and community centers, to educate community members about safety during flood conditions, including the dangers of driving on flooded roads and potential contamination of land due to the overflow of septic tanks.

Goal HS-3 Prevent and reduce flooding.

Policies

HS-P3.1 Watersheds shall be managed to minimize flooding by minimizing impermeable surfaces, retaining or detaining stormwater, and controlling erosion.

HS-P3.2 Applicants for new development projects shall provide plans detailing existing drainage conditions and specifying how runoff will be detained or retained on-site and/or conveyed to the nearest drainage facility and shall provide that there shall be no increase in the peak flow runoff to said channel or facility.*

HS-P3.3 All development projects shall include stormwater control measures and site design features that prevent any increase in the peak flow runoff to existing drainage facilities.*

HS-P3.4 Developers shall pay their fair share for construction of off-site drainage improvements necessitated by their projects.

HS-P3.5 The County shall require redevelopment after flooding to meet current California Building Standards Code and flood-related Code of Ordinances requirements to reduce future vulnerabilities to flood hazards through site preparation, layout design, and flood-proofing building design and materials.

Actions

HS-A3.1 Pursue funding (such as the California Resilience Challenge Grant, Better Together Communities Grant, or Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities [BRIC] Grant) to support the construction and maintenance of infrastructure projects aimed at mitigating flood hazards.

HS-A3.2 Coordinate with Caltrans, the United States Forest Service (USFS), regional park districts, and other applicable agencies to support efforts that improve drainage, increase roadbed height, and conduct other protective steps to increase the resiliency of single-access roads and trails in flood zones.

HS-A3.3 Conduct regular cleaning and maintenance of storm drains and address potential ponding and improvement needs along key roadways and in communities and neighborhoods subject to flooding due to poor drainage, especially in advance of the rainy season.

Goal HS-4 Reduce risks from levee failure.

Policies

HS-P4.1 The County supports the efforts of regional, state, or federal agencies to study levee stability throughout the county, particularly levees that were designed and constructed to provide a minimum 100-year level of protection.

HS-P4.2 The County supports the efforts of levee owners and regional, state, or federal agencies to design and reconstruct levees that do not meet flood protection standards (200-year for urban or urbanizing areas, 100-year flood zones for all other areas) to bring them into compliance with adopted state and/or federal standards.

HS-P4.3 The County supports the efforts of private, state, and federal levee owners and shall lead efforts for County-maintained levees to ensure levees can function properly during a 500-year flood.

HS-P4.4 New development proposals in levee inundation areas shall mitigate risk from failure of these levees.*

Goal HS-5 Reduce risks from dam inundation.

Policies

HS-P5.1 New development proposals in dam inundation areas, as mapped in Figure HS-5 or the most current available mapping, shall consider and mitigate risks from failure of these dams.*

HS-P5.2 Risk of failure on new development proposals in the dam inundation areas for the Black Butte, Whiskeytown, and Shasta dams shall be coordinated between the Bureau of Reclamation, US Army Corps of Engineers, Butte County Department of Development Services, and Butte County Office of Emergency Management.

HS-P5.3 The County shall work with the California Department of Water Resources and California Division of Safety of Dams to ensure appropriate retrofits and upgrades are made to all at-risk dams within the county, such as Oroville Dam and Magalia Reservoir Dam.

Actions

HS-A5.1 Continue to maintain and update emergency response plans that address potential flooding in dam inundation areas.

HS-A5.2 Coordinate with Paradise Irrigation District efforts to secure funding and in implementing the stabilization of the Magalia Dam.

HS-A5.3 Identify site or construction flood protection improvement methods to minimize damage for facilities that remain in the 100-year flood zones or 200-year floodplains. For any critical public facility sited within the 100-year flood zones or 200-year floodplains, the responsible agency or department should implement site or building flood protection improvement methods to ensure operability and minimize damage.

III. SEISMIC AND GEOLOGIC HAZARDS

A. Background Information

Seismic and geologic hazards in Butte County include those related to earthquakes, steep slopes and landslides, erosion, and subsidence.

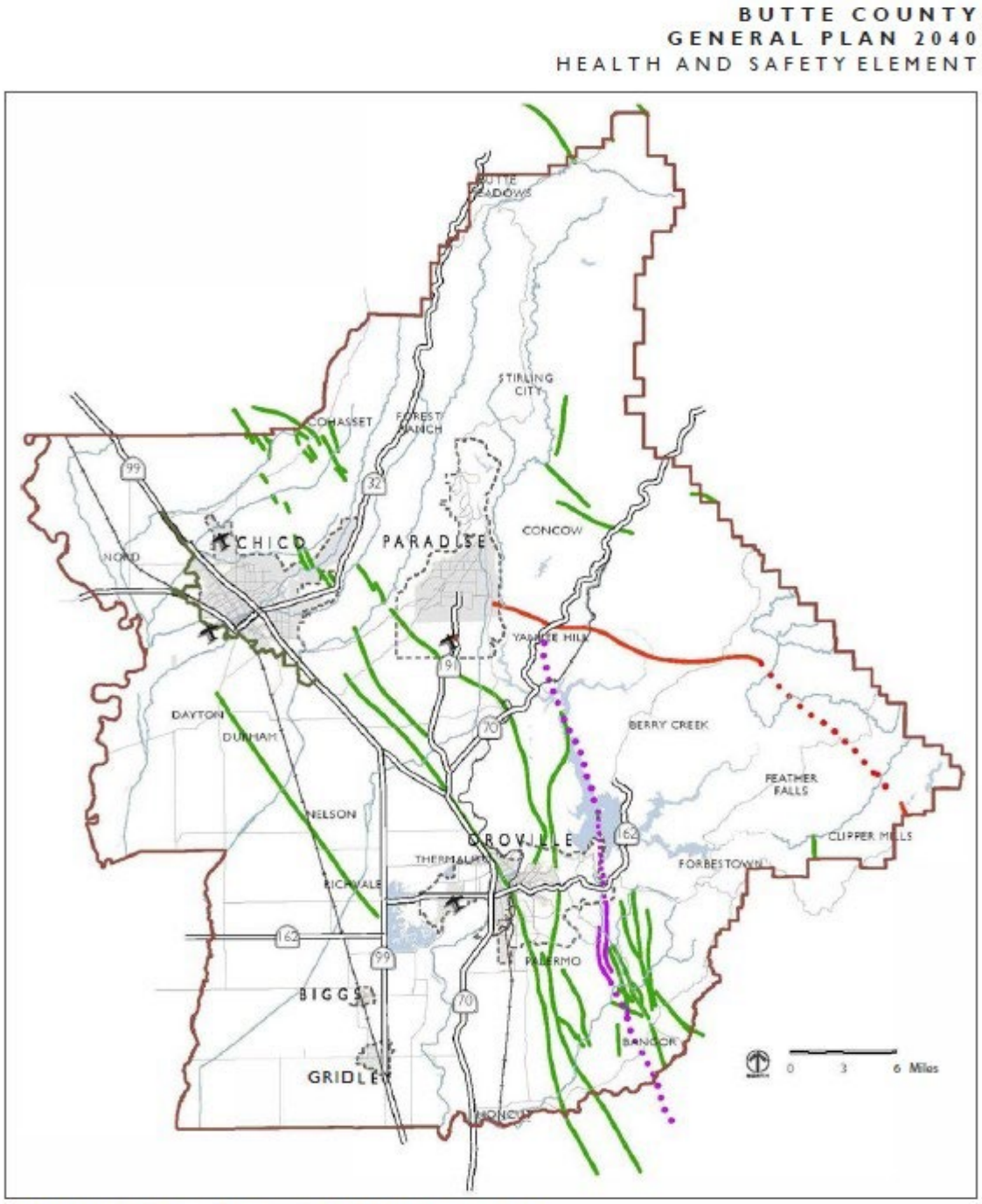
1. Earthquakes

Seismic hazards in Butte County are primarily related to faults, ground shaking, liquefaction, and seiches. Butte County has prepared an Earthquake Mitigation Action Plan as part of its LHMP, which is described further in Section VI of this Element. The Action Plan contains a description of earthquake-related hazards, a risk assessment, plans, and programs to address the hazards and mitigation goals and strategies for each jurisdiction in Butte County.

a. Faults

The Cleveland Hills fault is the only fault in Butte County that has been identified as an active earthquake fault pursuant to the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zones Act. This fault was responsible for the 1975 Oroville earthquake, which had a Richter magnitude of 5.7 and produced surface displacement along approximately 2.2 miles of the fault. Fault lines in Butte County are displayed in Figure HS-6.

FIGURE HS-6 BUTTE COUNTY FAULT LINES



Source: Butte County General Plan 2030: Health and Safety Element, 2016.

FIGURE HS-6
BUTTE COUNTY FAULT LINES

Other active faults and fault zones located as much as 100 miles away from Butte County have the potential to cause shaking in the county, including Coast Ranges Thrust Zone, the San Andreas Fault, the Midland-Sweitzer Fault, the Melones Fault Zone, and Eastern Sierra Faults.

In addition to mapped known faults, there are a large number of other faults within Butte County and in neighboring areas that could be considered potentially active, based on criteria developed by the California Geological Survey. In Butte County, faults that are considered by some geologists to be potentially active include the Big Bend Fault, which is thought to be capable of generating an earthquake of up to magnitude 7.0 in Butte County; the Foothill Shear zone, which extends into southern Butte County, and the Chico Monocline Fault, which could produce an earthquake of up to magnitude 7.0, significantly impacting the Chico area and other parts of the county.

b. Ground Shaking

The intensity of seismically induced ground shaking at any specific site depends on the characteristics of the earthquake, the distance from the earthquake, and the local geologic and soil conditions. Earthquakes are typically measured in terms of magnitude and intensity. Earthquake "magnitude" is a measure of the total amount of energy released in an earthquake. With increasing magnitude (i.e., larger earthquakes), ground motions are stronger, last longer, and are felt over larger areas. Earthquake "intensity" refers to the effects of earthquake-induced ground motions on people and buildings. Earthquake intensity is often more useful than magnitude when discussing the damaging effects of earthquakes. The most common intensity scale is the Modified Mercalli Intensity (MMI) scale, which ranges from I (Not Felt) to X (Extreme). A summary of the observed effects corresponding to the various MMI levels is given in Table HS-4.

TABLE HS-4 SUMMARY OF MODIFIED MERCALLI INTENSITY SCALE FOR EARTHQUAKES

Intensity	Shaking	Description/Damage
I	Not felt	Not felt except by a very few under especially favorable circumstances.
II	Weak	Felt only by a few persons, especially on upper floors of buildings.
III	Weak	Felt noticeably indoors, especially on upper floors of buildings. Many people do not recognize it as an earthquake. Standing motor cars may rock slightly. Vibration like passing of a truck. Duration estimated.
IV	Light	Felt indoors by many, outdoors by few during the day. At night, some awakened. Dishes, windows, doors disturbed; walls make creaking sound. Sensation like heavy truck striking building. Standing motor cars rocked noticeably.
V	Moderate	Felt by nearly everyone; many awakened. Some dishes, windows broken. Unstable objects overturned. Pendulum clocks may stop.
VI	Strong	Felt by all; many frightened. Some heavy furniture moved; a few instances of fallen plaster. Damage slight.
VII	Very Strong	Damage negligible in buildings of good design and construction; slight to moderate in well-built ordinary structures; considerable in poorly built or badly designed structures; some chimneys broken.
VIII	Severe	Damage slight in specially designed structures; considerable in ordinary substantial buildings with partial collapse. Damage great in poorly built structures. Fall of chimneys, factory stacks, columns, monuments, walls. Heavy furniture overturned.
IX	Violent	Damage considerable in specially designed structures; well-designed frame structures thrown out of plumb; damage great in substantial buildings, with partial collapse. Buildings shifted off foundations.

TABLE HS-4 SUMMARY OF MODIFIED MERCALLI INTENSITY SCALE FOR EARTHQUAKES		
Intensity	**Shaking**	**Description/Damage**
X	Extreme	Some well-built structures destroyed; most masonry and frame structures destroyed with foundations; ground badly cracked. Rails bent.
Source: United State Geologic Survey. N.d. "Modified Mercalli Intensity Scale." https://www.usgs.gov/media/images/ modified-mercalli-intensity-scale.		

Conservatively, ground motions as strong as those observed during the 1975 Oroville earthquake (MMI VIII) can be expected anywhere in Butte County. More conservatively, ground motions with an MMI as high as X could occur from magnitude 7 earthquakes on the Chico Monocline Fault, the Big Bend Fault, or the Foothills Shear Zone. Similar intensities could be experienced in Butte County from larger earthquakes on more distant faults, such as the Coast Ranges Thrust Zone or Melones Fault Zone.

c. Liquefaction

Liquefaction is a phenomenon primarily associated with saturated, cohesion-less soil layers close to the ground surface. During liquefaction, soils lose strength and ground failure may occur. Mapping included in the Butte LHMP indicates that much of the west and southwestern part of the county has a moderate to high potential for liquefaction.

d. Seiches

A seiche is a periodic oscillation of a body of water such as a reservoir, river, lake, harbor, or bay resulting from seismic shaking or other causes, such as landslides into a body of water. The period of the oscillation varies depending on the size of the body of water and may be several minutes to several hours. Depending on the magnitude of the oscillations, seiches can cause considerable damage to dams, levees, and shoreline facilities. Seiches have not been recorded in any of the reservoirs in Butte County that are within the jurisdiction of the California Division of Dam Safety. However, the potential for seiches does exist in Butte County, either from landslides or from stronger earthquakes that have been experienced in historical times.

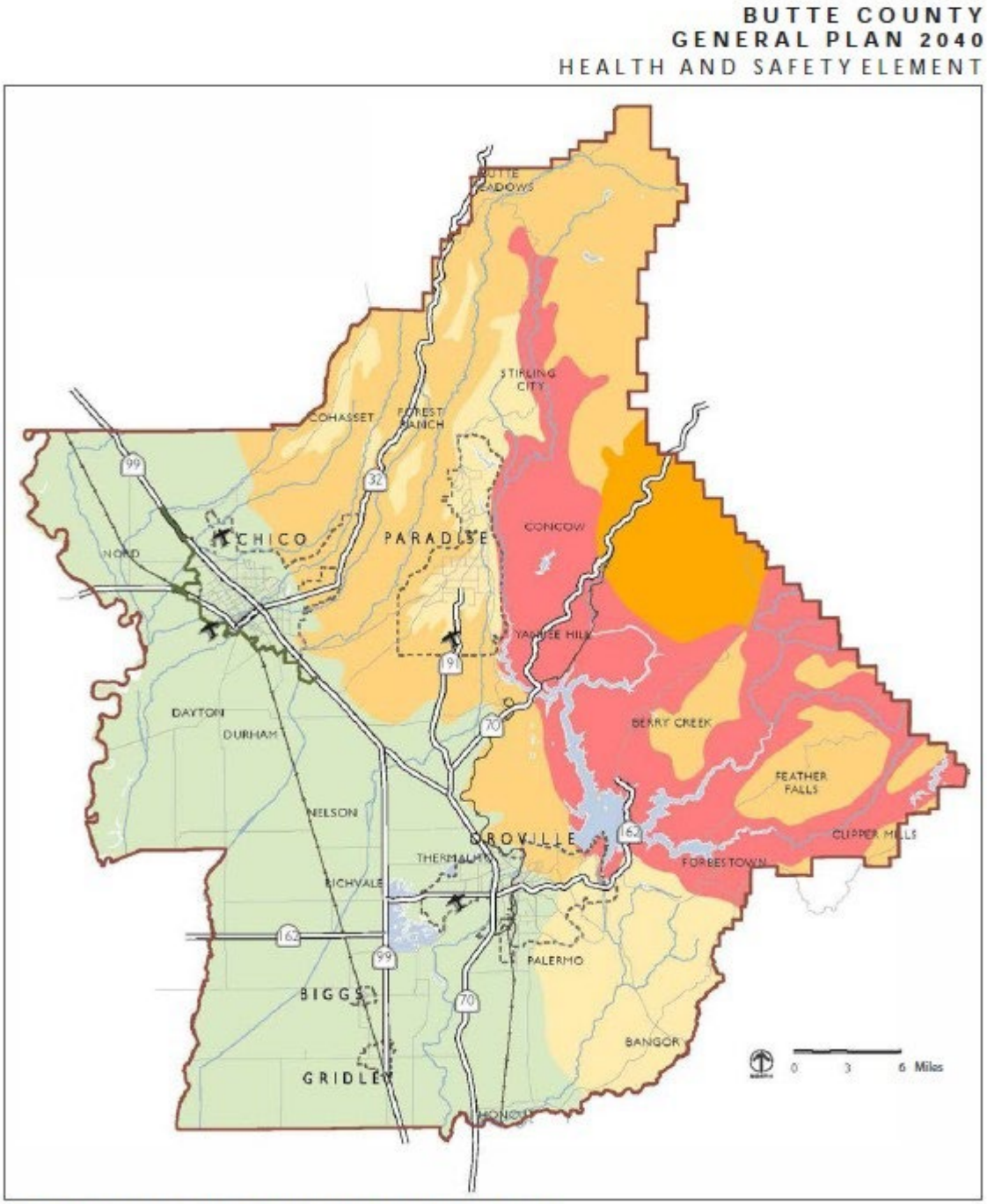
2. Steep Slopes and Landslides

Steep slopes, in conjunction with certain soil types, can be prone to landslides. Some of the natural causes of this instability are earthquakes, weak soils, erosion, heavy rainfall, and fire. Human activities, such as poor grading that undercuts steep slopes or overloads them with fill, excessive irrigation, and removal of vegetation can also contribute to landslides.

Landslides occur in Butte County, but they are not common. Most landslides in Butte County occur on slopes greater than 15 percent, and most new landslides occur in areas that have experienced previous landslides. Landslide potential is illustrated in Figure HS-7. The areas of highest landslide potential are in the mountainous central area of the county where well-developed soils overlay impervious bedrock on steep slopes, which at times undergo heavy rainfall. The slopes around flat uplands, such as Table Mountain, are also highly susceptible to landslides.

Butte County has prepared a Landslide Mitigation Action Plan as part of its LHMP. The Action Plan contains a description of landslide hazards, a risk assessment, plans and programs to address the hazards and mitigation goals, and strategies for each jurisdiction in Butte County.

FIGURE HS-7 LANDSLIDE POTENTIAL



Source: Butte County General Plan 2030: Health and Safety Element, 2016.

3. Erosion

Erosion is a two-step process by which soils and rocks are broken down or fragmented and then transported. Aside from natural causes of erosion, including flooding and fire, human activities, such as mining, logging, and cattle ranching can also facilitate erosion.

Erosion hazard potential in Butte County, which is displayed in Figure HS-8, is dependent on the underlying geology and the amount of rainfall the area receives, and erosion hazard increases when protective vegetation is removed. Erosion hazard potential is highest in the mountainous central area of the county where well- developed soils overlay impervious bedrock on steep slopes, which at times undergo heavy rainfall.

4. Expansive Soils

Expansive soils are those that have potential to undergo significant changes in volume, either shrinking or swelling, with changes in moisture content. Periodic shrinking and swelling of expansive soils can cause extensive damage to buildings, other structures, and roads. Soils of high expansion potential generally occur in the level areas of the Sacramento Valley, including around the population centers of Chico, Oroville, Biggs, and Gridley, as shown in Figure HS-9. Soils along stream and river valleys and on steep mountain slopes generally have no or low expansion potential.

5. Subsidence

Land subsidence is a gradual settling or sudden sinking of the Earth's surface owing to subsurface movement of earth materials, often caused by groundwater or oil extraction. To date, no inelastic land subsidence has been recorded in Butte County.

Figure HS-10 shows where there is a potential for subsidence in the county associated with groundwater withdrawal. Subsidence remains a potential hazard, particularly if an extended drought or other condition were to necessitate large groundwater draw- downs.

FIGURE HS-8 EROSION HAZARD POTENTIAL

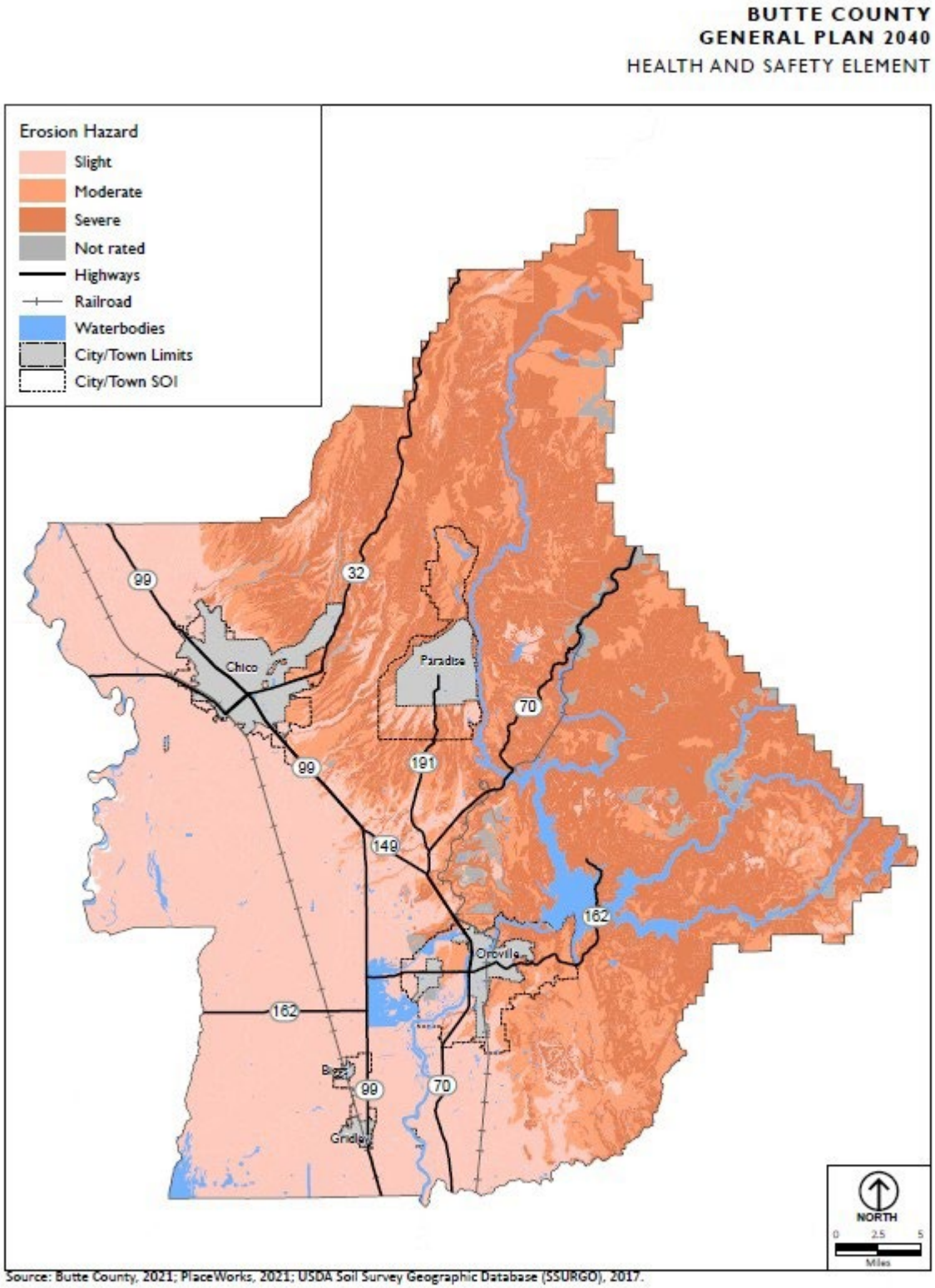
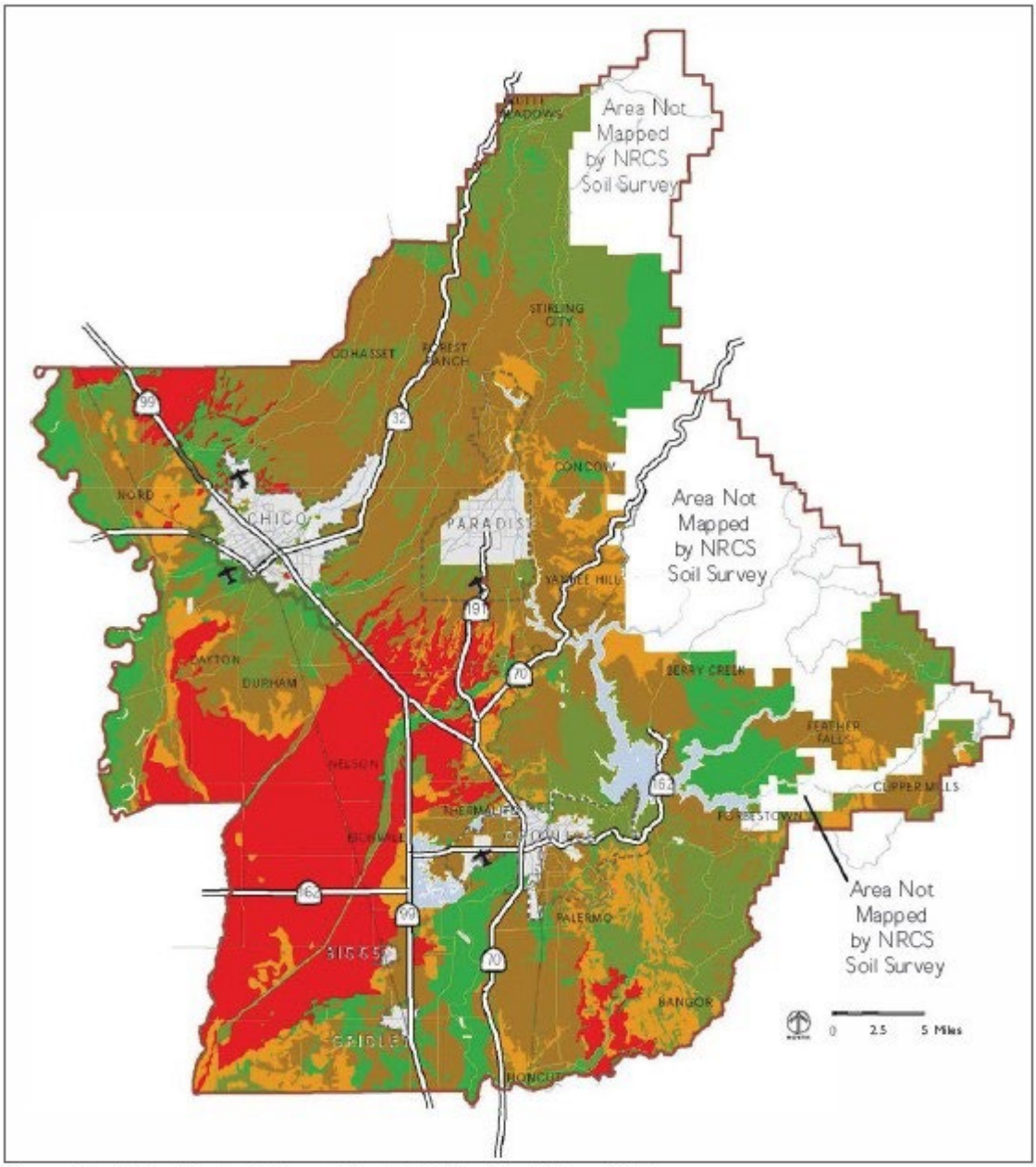


FIGURE HS-8
EROSION HAZARD POTENTIAL

FIGURE HS-9 EXPANSIVE SOIL POTENTIAL

BUTTE COUNTY
GENERAL PLAN 2040
HEALTH AND SAFETY ELEMENT



Sources: PlaceWorks, Butte County General Plan 2030 Setting & Trends Report, 2007.

Expansive Soil Potential
Questa Engineering, 2007
- Very Low
- Low
- Moderate
- High
- Very High

- Airports
- Greenline
- Highways
- Railroad
- Major Roads
- Sphere of Influence
- City/Town Limits
- County Boundary

FIGURE HS-9
EXPANSIVE SOIL POTENTIAL

FIGURE HS-10 SUSIDENCE AREAS

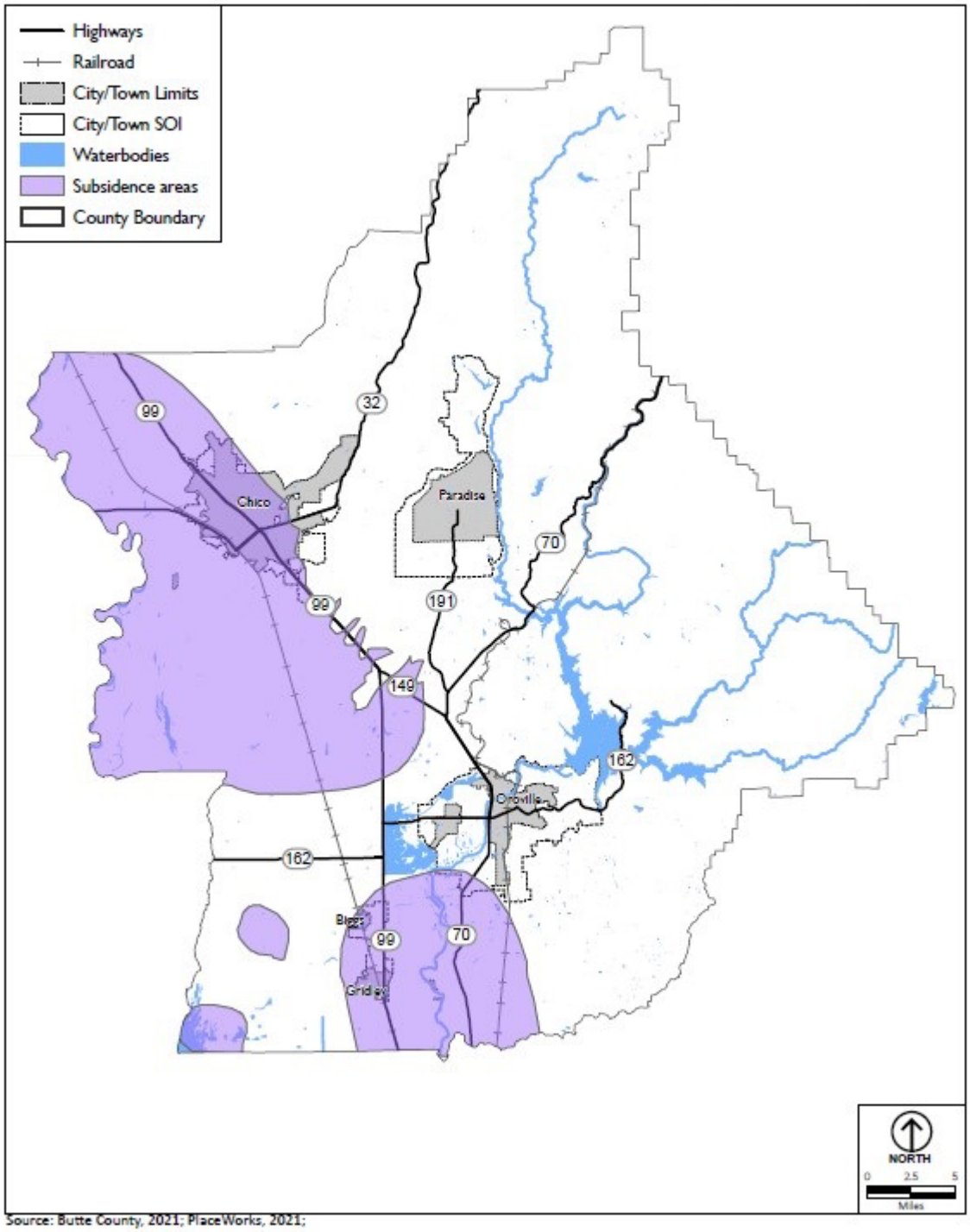


FIGURE HS-10
SUBSIDENCE AREAS

6. Climate Change

While climate change is not connected to seismic hazards, climate change will likely increase landslides within the county as precipitation falls in more intense rainstorms, droughts dry out vegetation, and wildfires remove stabilizing vegetation from the mountains and hillsides. Wildfires and droughts can clear vegetation that holds soil in place and dry out soil to the point that it is less able to absorb water, creating a risk of landslides when heavy rains return. This can cause landslides and debris flows, especially in areas within or below burn scars. Droughts can also deplete surface water supplies and lead to a greater reliance on groundwater to meet demands. This could increase the potential for subsidence if groundwater levels are drawn down.

B. Goals, Policies, and Actions

Goal HS-6 Reduce risks from earthquakes.

Policies

HS-P6.1 Appropriate detailed seismic investigations shall be completed for all public and private development projects in accordance with the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act.*

HS-P6.2 Geotechnical investigations shall be completed prior to approval of schools, hospitals, fire stations, and sheriff stations, as a means to ensure that these critical facilities are constructed in a way that mitigates site-specific seismic hazards.

HS-P6.3 Applicants shall seismically retrofit existing homes where required under existing building codes.

HS-P6.4 The County shall promote the use of the California Earthquake Brace + Bolt Grant Program for seismic retrofits on homes built before 1980.

Goal HS-7 Reduce risks from steep slopes and landslides.

Policy

HS-P7.1 Site-specific geotechnical investigations shall be required to assess landslide potential for private development and public facilities projects in areas rated “Moderate to High” and “High” in Figure HS-7 or the most current available mapping.*

HS-P7.2 The County shall coordinate with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), United States Forest Service (USFS), park districts, and other agencies to take emergency action, as needed, to stabilize burned slopes and reduce erosion and runoff in burn areas above developed areas, important infrastructure, or key transportation corridors as soon as possible after a wildfire event.

HS-P7.3 The County discourages new development in landslide or liquefaction- prone areas.

Actions

HS-A7.1 Evaluate County-owned buildings and facilities in areas prone to landslides/debris flows and improve drainage systems, stabilize nearby slopes, and take actions to harden the property as needed.

HS-A7.2 Use retaining walls, slope stabilization techniques, and other strategies to stabilize single-access roads and trails where feasible.

Goal HS-8 Reduce risks from erosion.

Policy

HS-P9.1 Site-specific geotechnical investigations shall be required to assess erosion potential for private development projects and public facilities in areas rated “Very High” in Figure HS-8 or the most current available mapping. Private development projects shall implement recommendations provided in the geotechnical investigations.*

Goal HS-9 Reduce risks from expansive soils.

Policy

HS-P10.9 Site-specific geotechnical investigations shall be required to assess risks from expansive soils for private development projects and public facilities in areas rated “High” in Figure HS-9 or the most current available mapping. Private development projects shall implement recommendations provided in the geotechnical investigations.*

Goal HS-10 Avoid inelastic subsidence from groundwater withdrawal.

Policies

HS-P10.10 Continue to work with Groundwater Sustainability Agencies to ensure that groundwater withdrawals do not lead to inelastic subsidence.

HS-P10.11 Existing programs to monitor potential subsidence activity shall be supported.

IV. FIRE HAZARDS

A. Background Information

The public is exposed to fire-related hazards from two potential sources: structural fires and wildland fires affecting urban and rural residential interface areas.

1. Fire Risks

As the devastating BTU Lightning Complex Fire of 2008, Camp Fire of 2018, and North Complex Fire of 2020 revealed, most areas of Butte County face some level of threat from wildland fire. As shown in Figure HS-11, fire hazard severity zones in the foothills and mountainous areas of the county, extending from Cohasset in the north to Forbestown in the south, have been designated by CAL FIRE as “very high” or “high,” with the majority of the area in the “very high” classification. CAL FIRE regularly updates the Fire Hazard Severity Zone Maps as established by the Fire and Resource Assessment Program (FRAP). The Butte County HEALTH AND SAFETY ELEMENT will incorporate all new relevant maps to the County as they become available.

Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) areas are also shown on Figure HS-11; WUI areas occur when urban development is intermixed with wildland vegetation, or when pockets of wildland vegetation occur inside developed areas. The foothill communities of Kelly Ridge, Bangor, Cohasset, Forest Ranch, Concow, Yankee Hill, Berry Creek, Forbestown, communities on the Upper Ridge, and the Town of Paradise are examples of WUI areas. Unlike wildfire in wildland areas, fires that occur within WUI areas are more likely to damage or destroy buildings and infrastructure that support populations, the economy, and key services within the county. Many of the WUI areas in Butte County have few access roads, which poses challenges for evacuation and for emergency responders to fight the fire and help residents in these areas. The 2022- 2030 Butte County HOUSING ELEMENT identifies opportunity sites for new development. The County has confirmed that the potential building sites included in this site inventory are not located in either High or Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones. The Butte County Land Use Element includes a map which designates the various land uses within the County. This map is used as the basis for existing and planned development within the County.

Several factors influence wildfire conditions and facilitate the spread of wildfires, including topography, fuels, weather conditions, and climate change. Human actions are also the leading cause of wildfires in California, increasing the risk of wildfire devastating natural lands and communities. Wildfires can lead to secondary hazards, such as landslides and debris flows, flooding downstream, and poor air quality from smoke.

Table HS-5 lists historic major wildfire incidents greater than 5,000 acres that have occurred within the county from 1887 to 2021.

FIGURE HS-11 FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONES & WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE

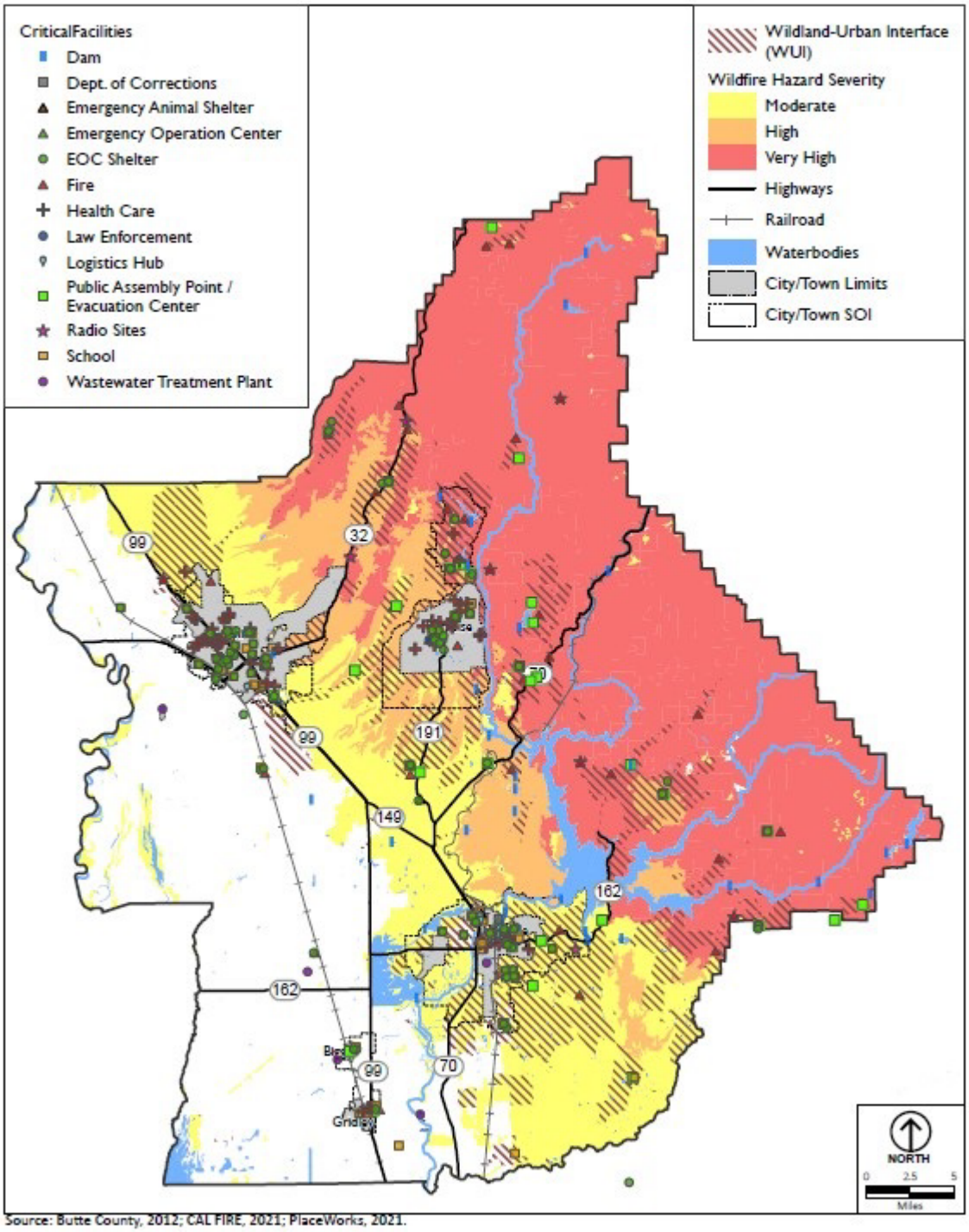


FIGURE HS-11

FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONES & WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE

TABLE HS-5 HISTORIC WILDFIRES OVER 5, 000 ACRES IN BUTTE COUNTY,			
Year	Fire Name	Total Burned Acres[a]	Cause
1917	N/A	12,701	Miscellaneous
1917	N/A	8,003	Unknown
1918	N/A	22,232	Miscellaneous
1926	N/A	12,536	Miscellaneous
1927	N/A	8,541	Unknown
1927	N/A	27,841	Unknown
1931	N/A	5,468	Unknown
1931	N/A	42,078	Miscellaneous
1943	Pine Creek	11,360	Miscellaneous
1945	N/A	6,358	Miscellaneous
1951	Milk Ranch	12,979	Miscellaneous
1964	Lightning #1	9,876	Miscellaneous
1966	Project 19	5,725	Miscellaneous
1984	Bidwell	6,192	Miscellaneous
1990	Campbell	6,028	Equipment Use
1992	Burton	5,915	Equipment Use
1992	Villa	6,605	Powerline
1999	Musty	16,757	Lightning
1999	Doe Mill	10,857	Lightning
1999	Bucks	34,236	Lightning
2000	Storrie	56,261	Railroad
2001	Poe	8,333	Arson
2008	BTU Lightning Complex	53,699	Lightning
2008	Humboldt	23,344	Arson
2008	South-Frey	12,402	Lightning
2008	Scotch	13,009	Lightning
2017	Cherokee	8,417	Powerline
2017	Wall	6,033	Equipment Use
2017	Cascade	16,141	Unknown
2018	Camp Fire	153,336	Powerline
2020	North Complex Fire	318,935	Lightning
2021	Dixie Fire	963,309	Powerline

Source: CAL FIRE, Fire and Resource Assessment Program. 2020. “California Fire Perimeters – 1887 to 2019”. https://services.arcgis.com/jIL9msH9OI208GCb/arcgis/rest/services/California_Fire_Perimeters_1878_2019/FeatureServer. Accessed February 17, 2021.

Notes:

a. The total burned acres includes all land burned by each wildfire, including land outside of Butte County.

The most destructive fires since the 2010 Butte County General Plan through 2021 in Butte County were the Camp Fire in 2018 and the North Complex Fire in 2020:

- On November 8, 2018, a power transmission line above Poe Dam near Pulga malfunctioned and sparked. A Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) Rock Creek Powerhouse field crew reported a fire under power transmission lines near Poe Dam to CAL FIRE. The fire, named the Camp Fire, spread west rapidly and evacuation orders were sent out for the Town of Paradise, the Upper Ridge communities, and surrounding areas. By November 10, the Camp Fire had become the most destructive fire in California's history. Full containment of the fire occurred November 25, after rain fell on November 21. While most of the damage occurred in the Town of Paradise, the Camp Fire damaged or destroyed several unincorporated communities and areas. In the unincorporated areas of the county, 4,569 structures were completely destroyed, 194 were damaged, and only 2,402 structures within the fire perimeter remained undamaged.[5] In total (including the Town of Paradise), the Camp Fire directly and indirectly caused 86 resident fatalities and injured 3 CAL FIRE personnel.[6]
- On August 17, 2020, a lightning storm hit Plumas National Forest in Butte and Plumas Counties. The lightning sparked 21 fires in the area, including the Sheep Fire near Susanville, the Claremont Fire near Claremont Creek just south of Quincy, and the Bear Fire in the Middle Fork Canyon near the Pacific Crest Trail. On September 5, 2020, strong winds caused the Bear Fire and Claremont Fire to grow explosively and merge into the North Complex Fire.[7] The communities of Berry Creek, Feather Falls, Clipper Mills, Brush Creek, Woodleaf, and Forbestown were evacuated with little warning in the afternoon of September 8 due to the rapidly spreading fire. The fire burned for three more months.[8] On December 3, 2020, Plumas National Forest officials announced that the North Complex Fire was 100-percent contained. The North Complex Fire burned 318,935 acres, damaged or destroyed 2,455 structures, including destroying the communities of Berry Creek and Feather Falls, and caused 16 fatalities.

2. Fire Protection

The responsibility for the prevention and suppression of wildfires in Butte County belongs to the Butte County Fire Department (BCFD), with support from CAL FIRE Butte Unit, US Forest Service (USFS) Plumas National Forest Unit, and Lassen National Forest Unit.

In CAL FIRE-designated State Responsibility Areas (SRAs), shown in Figure HS-12, the state has responsibility for preventing and suppressing wildfires. Due to the heightened risk of wildfire and increased potential for damage or loss in SRAs, development within these areas must comply with special building requirements established in Chapter 7A of the California Building Code and Chapter 47 of the California Fire Code. SRAs are also regulated by California Public Resources Code Sections 4290 and 4291, which establish requirements for maintenance of defensible space and vegetation management.



Forest Ranch Fire Department. Photo courtesy of the Butte County Department of Development Services.

FIGURE HS-12 WILDFIRE RESPONSIBILITY AREAS

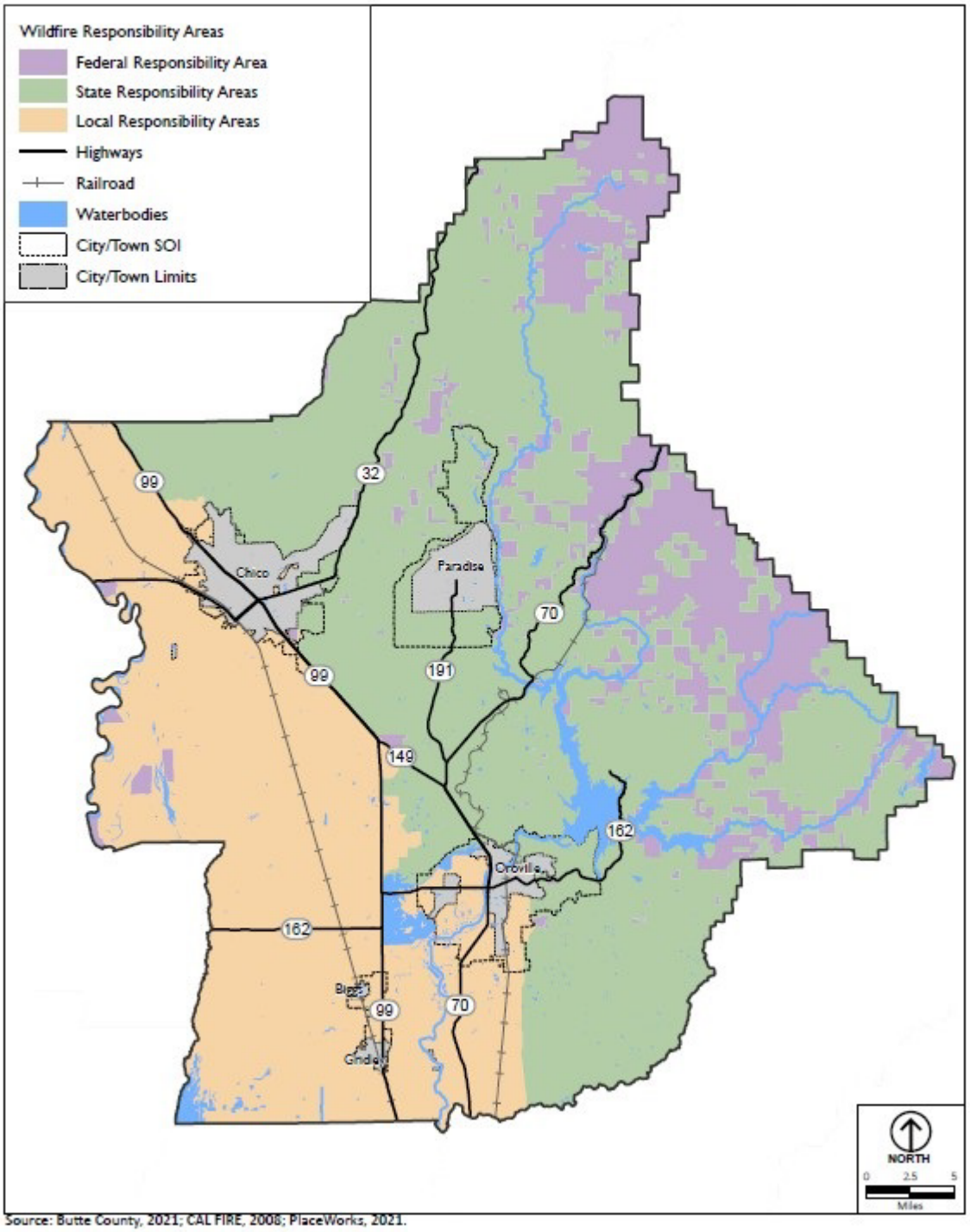


FIGURE HS-12

WILDFIRE RESPONSIBILITY AREAS

The Cities of Chico and Oroville have independent fire departments; BCFD provides fire protection to the unincorporated areas of Butte County, the Cities of Biggs and Gridley, and the Town of Paradise. To address wildland fire hazards, CAL FIRE, BCFD, and the Butte County Fire Safe Council have collaborated to develop the Butte Unit Community Wildfire Protection Plan, and CAL FIRE and BCFD maintain the Fire Management Plan. This plan "systematically assesses the existing level of wildland fire protection service, identifies high-risk and high-value areas where potential exists for costly and damaging wildfires, ranks these areas in terms of priority needs, and prescribes what can be done to reduce future costs and losses." The USFS also has Fire Management Plans for both Plumas and Lassen National Forests.

In addition, Butte County has prepared a Wildfire Mitigation Action Plan as part of its LHMP, which is described further in Section VI of this Element.

The Risk Assessment of the LHMP contains a description of wildfire hazards, a risk assessment, plans and programs to address the hazards, and mitigation goals and strategies for each jurisdiction in Butte County.

The ability to control wildfires and structural fires depends in part on the adequacy and availability of water supply. New subdivisions and commercial developments are required to install a pressurized water system with minimum water flows to meet the requirements of Butte County's Improvement Standards. In areas where no community water system exists, water for fire protection is furnished by the County's water tenders, which are strategically placed around the county to supplement the fire engines responding to fires. As the population continues to grow in the WUI areas, additional water tenders will be required to keep pace with growth. Since water tenders are staffed by citizen volunteer firefighters, there is no guarantee that a water tender will be able to respond when needed.

3. Community Wildfire Protection Plan

The 2020-2025 Butte County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) was updated on April 23, 2020. This five-year update ensures the County and various communities have a framework for reducing the risks associated with wildfire. The CWPP includes pre-fire strategies and tactics to be implemented in cooperation with the fire agencies in Butte County, the Butte County Fire Safe Council, local community groups, and landowners. Key goals and objectives emphasized in this plan include:

- Improve the availability and use of consistent, shared information on hazards and risk assessment.
- Promote the role of local planning processes, including general plans, new development, and existing developments, and recognize individual landowner/homeowner responsibilities.
- Increase awareness and actions to improve fire resistance of human-made assets at risk and fire resilience of wildland environments through natural resource management.
- Integrate implementation of fire and vegetative fuels management practices consistent with the priorities of landowners or managers.
- Determine and seek the needed level of resources for fire prevention, natural resource management, fire suppression, and related services.
- Implement needed assessments and actions for post-fire protection and recovery.

4. CAL FIRE Butte Unit Strategic Fire Plan

Butte County is part of the Butte Unit of CAL FIRE, which works within BCFD to provide fire protection services to large sections of the unincorporated area. The unit's Strategic Fire Plan, prepared in 2021, lays out how CAL FIRE staff plan to implement the State Fire Plan in the region to reduce the threat posed by wildfires. It includes strategies such as public information and outreach, fuel reduction, maintenance of fire protection roads, and coordination with local agencies. This HEALTH AND SAFETY ELEMENT incorporates many of the fire protection strategies in the Strategic Fire Plan, helping to ensure a consistent approach to wildfire mitigation between CAL FIRE and local agencies in Butte County.

5. Climate Change

Climate change is likely to increase temperatures, including creating warmer temperatures earlier and later in the year, and cause droughts to occur more frequently, which dry out soils and vegetation. Droughts often kill plants and trees, which serve as additional fuel for wildfires. These factors are expected to increase wildfire conditions, creating a risk of more frequent and intense wildfires. Because wildfires burn the trees and other vegetation that help stabilize a hillside and absorb water, more areas burned by fire may also lead to an increase in landslides and floods. Historically, an average of 5,606 acres burned annually in the county. Figure HS-13 shows historic wildfire perimeters in the county. Wildfires are projected to increase to an annual average in the county of 8,562 acres burned (a 53-percent increase) by 2050 and an annual average of 14,132 acres burned (a 152-percent increase) by 2100.

FIGURE HS-13 HISTORIC WILDFIRE PERIMETERS

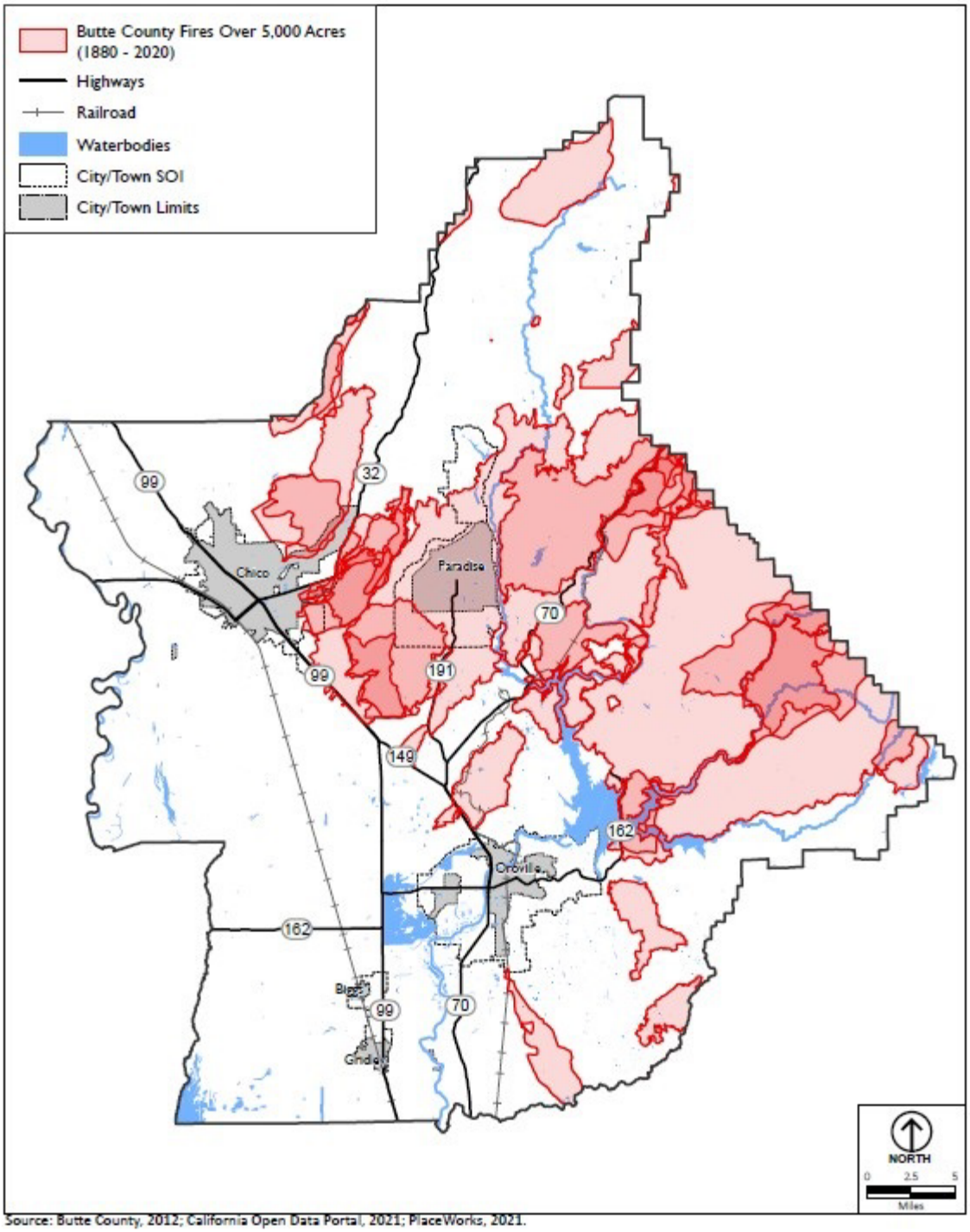


FIGURE HS-13

HISTORIC WILDFIRE PERIMETERS

[5] Butte County. 2019. Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, Chapter 4: Risk Assessment. http://www.buttecounty.net/Portals/19/LHMP/2019/CH4ButteCountyLHMPUpdateChapter4RiskAssessmen t.pdf?ver=2019-11-13-122000-400.

[6] Butte County District Attorney, The Camp Fire Public Report: A Summary of the Camp Fire Investigation, June 16, 2020, https://www.buttecounty.net/Portals/30/CFReport/PGE-THE-CAMP-FIRE-PUBLIC- REPORT.pdf?ver=2020-06-15-190515-977.

[7] U.S. Forest Service, Plumas National Forest. 2020. North Complex. https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/6997/, accessed February 18, 2021.

[8] U.S. Forest Service, Plumas National Forest. 2020. North Complex. https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/6997/, accessed February 18, 2021.

B. Goals, Policies, and Actions

Goal HS-11 Reduce risks from wildland and urban fire.

Policies

HS-P11.1 Fire hazard risk mitigation shall be considered in all land use and zoning decisions, environmental review, subdivisions review, and the provision of public services.

HS-P11.2 Create wildfire-resistant communities by supporting the implementation of community wildfire protection plans and wildfire fuel load reduction measures in coordination with the appropriate government, community group, or non-profit organization and California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE).

HS-P11.3 The County shall prioritize and fund fuel-reduction projects in the State Responsibility Area covered by the California Vegetation Treatment Program (CalVTP).

HS-P11.4 The County supports the Butte County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP), the Butte County Community Wildfire Protection Plan, and the CAL FIRE Butte Unit Fire Plan, and will cooperate with the Butte County Fire Department, CAL FIRE, and the Butte County Fire Safe Council in implementing these plans.

HS-P11.5 New development projects shall meet current County building and fire requirements and California Fire Safe Regulations.

HS-P11.6 New development projects in High or Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones or the Wildland-Urban Interface, as shown in Figure HS-11 or the most current data available from CAL FIRE, shall prepare a Fire Protection Plan for adequate emergency water flow, emergency vehicle access, visible addressing and signage, evacuation routes, fuel management, defensible space, fire safe building construction, and wildfire preparedness.

HS-P11.7 The County shall encourage the use of voluntary conservation easements or the voluntary transfer of development rights in undeveloped wildland areas within High and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones and the Wildland-Urban Interface, as shown in Figure HS-11 or the most current data available from CAL FIRE.

HS-P11.8 New development shall not diminish fire protection and prevention services, including the inspection and enforcement of vegetation management and fire-safe regulations.

HS-P11.9 Critical and essential facilities shall be sited outside of fire-prone areas wherever possible. If infeasible, fire-safe design elements shall be incorporated into the design of these facilities.

Actions

HS-A11.1 Continue seeking funding to identify and complete roadside fuel reduction projects and maintain necessary clearance zones on critical roads to reduce wildfire risk, increase visibility, and maintain safe evacuation routes. Coordinate with the Butte County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP).

HS-A11.2 Coordinate with CAL FIRE, USFS, regional park districts, and local tribal representatives to conduct wildland fire prevention activities and programs in new and existing development, such as controlled burning, fuel removal, grazing, defensible space, public and private fire roads, and the maintenance of existing or development of new fuel breaks.

HS-A11.3 Partner with local tribal representatives to learn and incorporate Indigenous fire management practices into the County's fire management procedures.

HS-A11.4 HS-A11.4 Develop standardized wildfire risk assessment and mitigation procedures for projects within the State Responsibility Area and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones.

HS-A11.5 Coordinate with CAL FIRE, USFS, and regional park districts to conduct public engagement and outreach to educate residents, business owners, and visitors about fire-safe communities and evacuations in fire-prone areas.

HS-A11.6 Develop and conduct public outreach and education programs that do the following:

i. Educate public and private landowners about projected high- risk wildfire areas that may increase in severity due to climate change.

ii. Support communities within the Wildland-Urban Interface by teaching property owners about defensible space, vegetation management, and fire-safe landscaping practices.

HS-A11.7 Investigate a Transfer of Development Rights program to transfer development rights in High or Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones and the Wildland-Urban Interface to lands outside of these fire-prone areas.

HS-A11.8 Identify funding mechanisms for the inspection and enforcement of vegetation and fire-safe standards in existing and new development.

Goal HS-12 Protect people and property from wildland or urban fires.

Policies

HS-P12.1 Regulations regarding fire-safe vegetation clearance and maintenance around structures, including non-conforming development, and infrastructure, including along driveways and private roads, shall be maintained and enforced.

HS-P12.2 Fuel breaks shall be required along the edge of developed areas, including non-conforming development, in Local Responsibility-Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones and State Responsibility Areas, as well as the Wildland-Urban Interface, as shown in Figures HS-11 and HS-12 or the most current data available from CAL FIRE.

HS-P12.3 Fire-resistant native landscaping and fuel breaks shall be required in residential areas.

HS-P12.4 Coordinate with park districts and other agencies to maintain mapping of refuge areas, expanding the capacity in the county to ensure residents and visitors have a safe meeting location during a wildfire event.

HS-P12.5 New development, significant retrofits, and reconstruction projects in Local Responsibility-Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones and the State Responsibility Areas, and the Wildland-

Urban Interface, shall be consistent with the California Building Standards Code, California Fire Code, and California Fire Safe Regulation requirements.

HS-P12.6 All development projects in High or Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones shall provide adequate water conveyance infrastructure to meet daily and fire-flow requirements.

HS-P12.7 Ensure that new development has adequate fire protection services, including adequate water supplies for fire suppression.

Actions

HS-A12.1 Explore funding opportunities for the following:

i. Retrofitting ventilation systems in public or community buildings to provide refuge for residents and visitors during wildfires or periods of unhealthy air quality caused by smoke from wildfires.

ii. Establishing a program to offset the cost of vegetation maintenance for low-income households.

iii. Coordinate with Butte County Fire Safe Council and other organizations to conduct ongoing vegetation management and fuels-reduction projects and programs.

iv. Supporting financing of vegetation removal within the High and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones.

HS-A12.2 Work with developers to establish vegetation management standards, including defensible space around homes that must be maintained by property owners, homeowners' associations, or a special district.

HS-A12.3 Continue to identify water sources sufficient to meet existing and future firefighting needs using best available data. Water source identification is an ongoing process accomplished locally by individual fire departments and fire stations.

HS-A12.4 Develop guidelines for the creation of fuel breaks in landscape setbacks.

Goal HS-13 **Identify safe and effective evacuation routes and access for fire prevention and suppression.**

Policies

HS-P13.1 New development in High or Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones and the Wildland-Urban Interface, as shown in Figure HS-11 or the most current data available from CAL FIRE, shall identify at least two points of access for day-to-day access and evacuation purposes and make improvements to develop, upgrade, and maintain these routes to ensure adequate capacity of evacuation routes. (See Goal HS-18 for additional evacuation policies)

Actions

HS-A13.1 Maintain and update primary and alternative evacuation routes for communities in foothill and mountain areas with high fire hazard potential.

HS-A13.2 Continue study on the capacity, viability, and safety of evacuation routes for areas in the Local Responsibility-Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones and State Responsibility Areas, as well as the Wildland- Urban Interface. Once the routes are evaluated through the study, seek funding to implement the necessary improvements to the routes.

HS-A13.3 Develop a funding mechanism to improve connectivity of evacuation routes and to ensure adequate capacity during emergencies.

Goal HS-14 **Ensure that communities are resilient and can effectively recover from wildfires.**

Policies

HS-P14.1 The County shall advocate for adequate fire insurance coverage and premiums with the California Insurance Commission and California State Legislature.

HS-P14.2 The County shall plan for recovery from a large-scale wildfire disaster, focusing on temporary housing needs, emergency workers, and emergency response personnel.

HS-P14.3 The County shall coordinate internally and with other local, regional, or state agencies to develop contingency plans for meeting intermediate and temporary housing needs of those displaced during catastrophic wildfire events until permanent housing is reconstructed.

HS-P14.4 The County shall promote Master Plan development for communities rebuilding after an incident to reduce permit fees and construction costs.

HS-P14.5 The County shall require redevelopment after wildfires to meet current California Building Standards Code, California Fire Code, and California Fire Safe Regulations to reduce future vulnerabilities to fire hazards through site preparation, layout design, fire-resistant landscaping, and fire-retarding building design and materials.

HS-P14.6 The County shall coordinate with local, regional, and state agencies to develop a recovery plan for ensuring long-term housing recovery to decrease the number of residents displaced after wildfire events.

HS-P14.7 After a wildfire, the County shall coordinate with local and regional agencies in efforts to protect water quality by stabilizing burned slopes and remediating or treating contaminated surface water or groundwater.

Actions

HS-A14.1 Re-evaluate development standards after a wildfire to ensure consistency with the latest regulations and best practices.

HS-A14.2 Identify and develop sites for emergency worker base camps and temporary housing for people impacted by disasters.

V. HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

A. Background Information

Hazardous materials are associated with industrial processes used in many parts of Butte County. These materials are also transported on county highways and roads and managed and recycled within the county. Since hazardous materials can be a serious health concern, they are regulated foremost by the Butte County Environmental Health Division, through implementation and inspection activities of the Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA). The CUPA is responsible for implementing the "Community Right to Know Law," the Hazardous Waste Control Law, the Underground Storage Tank Law, and other components of CUPA regulations. The Butte County CUPA relies on the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), and other associated agencies for oversight and guidance, as well as referral, when incidents require intervention that exceeds the CUPA's authority.



Butte County Environmental Health Specialist at work. Photo courtesy of the Butte County Department of Public Health.

1. Hazardous Waste Sites

In Butte County, hazardous waste sites are most commonly former industrial sites, groundwater plumes, and burn sites.

- **Former industrial sites** may be contaminated by past use of hazardous materials. The DTSC maintains a database of all the hazardous materials sites in Butte County. As of 2021, the DTSC database of hazardous materials indicates there are 27 active sites in Butte County, including four sites with active land use restrictions, five sites with certified and operation or maintenance status, two sites with an operating permit, and one site undergoing closure. Active status sites are those with active cleanups, certified operation and maintenance, land use restrictions, and hazardous waste disposal sites. These sites include areas within incorporated cities, as they still require permitting by the County Public Health Department.
- **Groundwater Contamination** is usually the result of illicit disposal, contaminated runoff from a hazardous materials site, or leaking underground fuel tanks. DTSC has identified large groundwater plumes of industrial solvents. All groundwater contamination plumes are currently being remediated under the jurisdiction and oversight of Cal-EPA.
- **Burn Sites**, where waste products are burned as an alternative to being simply buried in the ground, are seldom allowed in municipal areas. There are two burn sites in unincorporated areas of Butte County, which have both completed cleanups required by DTSC.

2. Hazardous Materials Transport

Nearly all of the hazardous materials transported through Butte County are carried by truck on the State Highway system. Figure HS-14 shows the County roads and city streets that are used to transport locally generated wastes from the source to the regional highway system. The County has not quantified the amount of hazardous materials that are transported on these routes to adjoining counties or states.

3. Hazardous Waste Disposal

Butte County has no registered Class I facilities that accept hazardous waste. There are only two remaining Class I landfills in California permitted to receive untreated hazardous wastes: the Kettleman Hills facility in Kings County and the Casmalia Resources Facility in Santa Barbara County. Businesses that handle or generate hazardous waste are regulated by the CUPA. Proper storage, off-site shipping, and documentation of the final disposal site is the primary function of this particular CUPA program.

FIGURE HS-14 DESIGNATED ROUTES FOR HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TRANSPORT

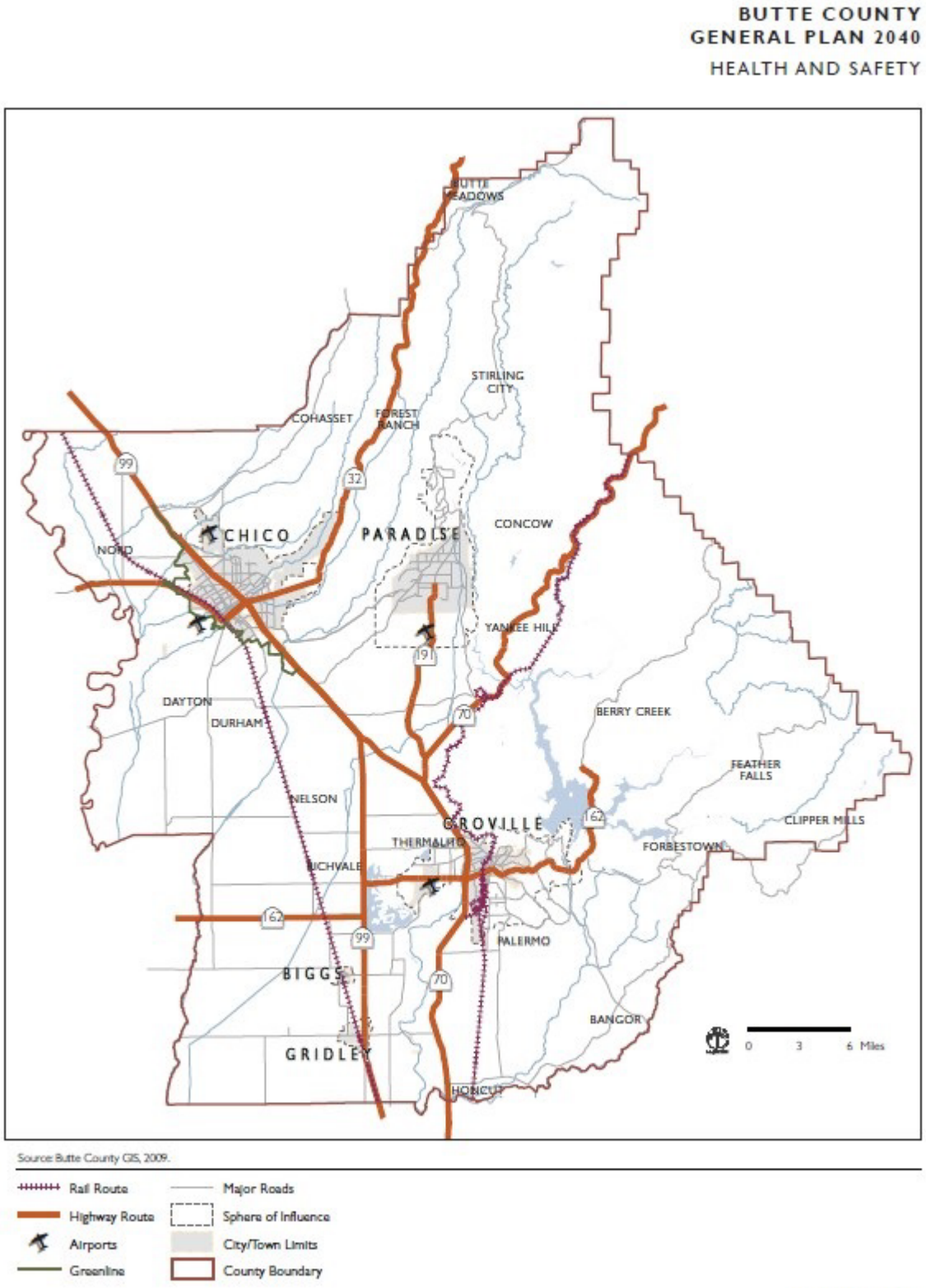


Figure HS-14

DESIGNATED ROUTES FOR HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TRANSPORT

While there are no hazardous waste facilities for large volumes of waste, Butte County did assume responsibility for a permanent household hazardous waste collection facility in 2002. This facility is adjacent to the Chico Airport at 1101 Marauder Street, Chico. Recology Butte Colusa Counties in Oroville, Waste Management, Inc. in Gridley, and a facility in Paradise also operate household hazardous waste facilities.

4. Hazardous Materials Emergency Response

The Environmental Health Division of the County's Public Health Department has developed a Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Plan (Area Plan) containing processes and strategies for responding to emergencies involving hazardous materials in the county. In Butte County, a unified team from the fire departments of Chico, Oroville, Paradise, Biggs, Gridley and Butte County, and CAL FIRE serves as first responders to hazardous materials incidents or emergencies. Several agencies, including the Public Health Department, act as support to the team when requested. The team was first organized by the Butte County Fire Chief's Association in 1989 through the use of a Joint Powers Agreement.

B. Goals, Policies, and Actions

Goal HS-15 Reduce risks from the harmful effects of hazardous materials.

Policies

HS-P15.1 The County supports the Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Plan (Area Plan).

HS-P15.2 Hazardous materials carrier routes shall be designated to direct hazardous materials transport away from populated areas.

HS-P15.3 Hazardous and toxic materials shall be transported only along the designated highway and rail routes shown in Figure HS-14.

HS-P15.4 Proponents of new hazardous waste management facilities shall demonstrate that potential environmental impacts can be mitigated as a condition of approval.

HS-P15.5 Environmental assessment and/or investigation shall be required prior to General Plan Amendment or Rezone approval that would allow uses with sensitive receptors, such as residential developments, schools, or care facilities, on sites previously used for commercial, industrial, agricultural, or mining uses to determine whether soils, groundwater, and existing structures are contaminated and require remediation. Policies and oversight authority shall follow California Health and Safety Code Division 20, Chapters 6.5 and 6.8 when determining jurisdiction.

VI. EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

A. Background Information

Emergency planning reduces both the risks and consequences of natural and human- caused hazards that occur in the county, such as those from flooding or fire. The following descriptions explain how Butte County will respond to an emergency situation, coordinate its internal departments, and cooperate with neighboring jurisdictions.

1. Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

Butte County has a current LHMP approved by FEMA that includes an assessment of the County's risk and vulnerability related to natural and other identified hazards and a comprehensive mitigation strategy, which includes actions and projects designed to mitigate or reduce the impacts of those hazards and to increase community resiliency. The County prepared the LHMP in accordance with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000) and followed FEMA's 2011 LHMP guidance. The LHMP incorporates a process where hazards are identified and profiled, the people and facilities at risk are analyzed, and mitigation actions are developed to reduce or eliminate hazard risk. The implementation of these mitigation actions, which include both short- and long-term strategies, involve planning, policy changes, programs, projects, and other activities. The Board of Supervisors formally adopted the LHMP and incorporated it into this HEALTH AND SAFETY ELEMENT of the General Plan, as permitted by California Government Code Section 65302.6. The LHMP should be consulted as part of this HEALTH AND SAFETY ELEMENT to ensure the general health and safety of people within Butte County.

2. Butte County Emergency Operations Plan

The Emergency Operations Plan (EOP), updated in April 2022, serves as the official EOP for Butte County. It includes planned operational functions and the overall responsibilities of each area of the county with level of service in addressing emergency situations. While emergency services are administered at the state and county level, they are available to local jurisdictions as well. The EOP is designed to focus on potential large-scale disasters, rather than daily emergencies that are regularly handled by local law enforcement and protection agencies. The EOP defines the County's planned response to emergency situations associated with natural disasters, hazardous materials incidents, and terrorism defense operations. A key component of the 2022 Butte County EOP is the identification of goals and standards for emergency services training, which is in section 9.4, Trainings and Exercises of that document.

The EOP is activated by the following alarms or incidents:

- An order of the Butte County Director of Emergency Management.
- A state of emergency proclaimed by the Governor.
- A proclaimed state-of-war emergency.
- A presidential declaration of a National Emergency.
- Upon receipt of an attack warning.
- An occurrence of a catastrophic disaster that requires immediate government response.

3. Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Plan

As noted in Section V of this Element, the Environmental Health Division of the Butte County Public Health Department has developed a Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Plan (Area Plan). The Area Plan describes agency roles, strategies, and processes for responding to emergencies involving hazardous materials.

4. Inter-Agency Coordination and Response

Butte County maintains an Office of Emergency Management (OEM) to coordinate interagency and intergovernmental comprehensive emergency management planning, operations and disaster assistance claims management for the County. OEM works with state and local agencies to develop effective emergency response systems within the county. OEM acts as the requesting and coordinating agency when situations require the involvement of state and other outside agencies.

5. Evacuation Planning

Butte County developed evacuation plans and maps for sub-regions of the county, including Berry Creek, Butte Creek/Butte Valley, Cohasset/Richardson Springs, East Oroville/Bangor/Palermo/Cherokee, Forbestown/Clipper Mills/Feather Falls/ Robison Mill/Hurleton, Forest Ranch/Butte Meadows, Paradise/Upper Ridge, and Yankee Hill. Each plan includes a map of key evacuation routes, advisory language, and preparation tips for community members. There are also 11 flood evacuation zones in the southern and western portions of the county, with guidance for evacuation routes, public assembly points, and evacuation centers. These evacuation plans help educate and prepare residents for emergencies and enables OEM to effectively respond to a disaster event. Evacuation routes and plans can be found on the County's website at: http://www.buttecounty.net/oem/disasterpreparedness.

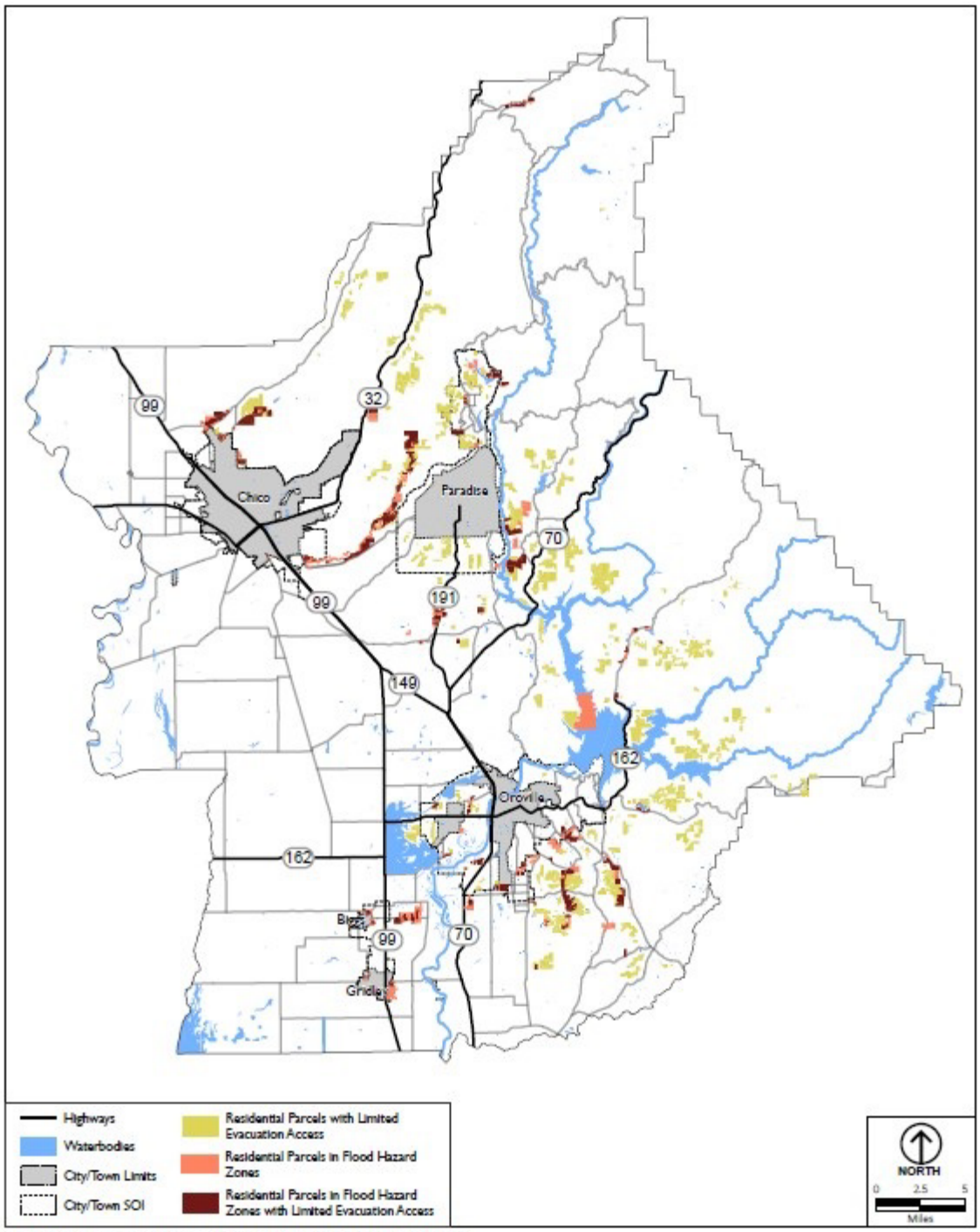
As of 2022, Butte County is in the process of identifying the safety, capacity, and viability of evacuation routes throughout the county, which will be consistent with AB 747 requirements.

In remote areas of the county, several communities have evacuation constraints, including only one ingress and egress from neighborhoods or communities. Figure HS-15 and Figure HS-16 show evacuation-constrained residential areas throughout the county in flood hazard areas and wildfire hazard zones, pursuant to California Government Code Section 65302(g)(5).

6. Emergency Communication

Efficient emergency response and communication systems are essential to ensuring the safety of county residents and visitors during emergencies. Key communications systems currently in place to help notify residents and businesses of emergencies and evacuation orders include emergency radio station 1460 AM, emergency information via phone networks through dialing 2-1-1, a reverse 911 notification system, Code Red, the Integrated Public Alert & Warning System (IPAWS) through FEMA, and Alert FM. Code Red is an opt-in mass notification system that provides emergency alerts, including evacuation zones, via cellphones, landlines, email, and text messages. This system provides emergency alerts through the Butte County Sherriff's office in English, Spanish, and Hmong. The IPAWS system provides alerts to the public through mobile phones using Wireless Emergency Alerts, and through radio and television using the Emergency Alert System and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Weather Radio. During the 2018 Camp Fire, reverse 911 calls were the primary tool for evacuation notices sent out to alert residents of the approaching threat.[9]

FIGURE HS-15 EVACUATION CONSTRAINED AREAS IN FLOOD HAZARD ZONES

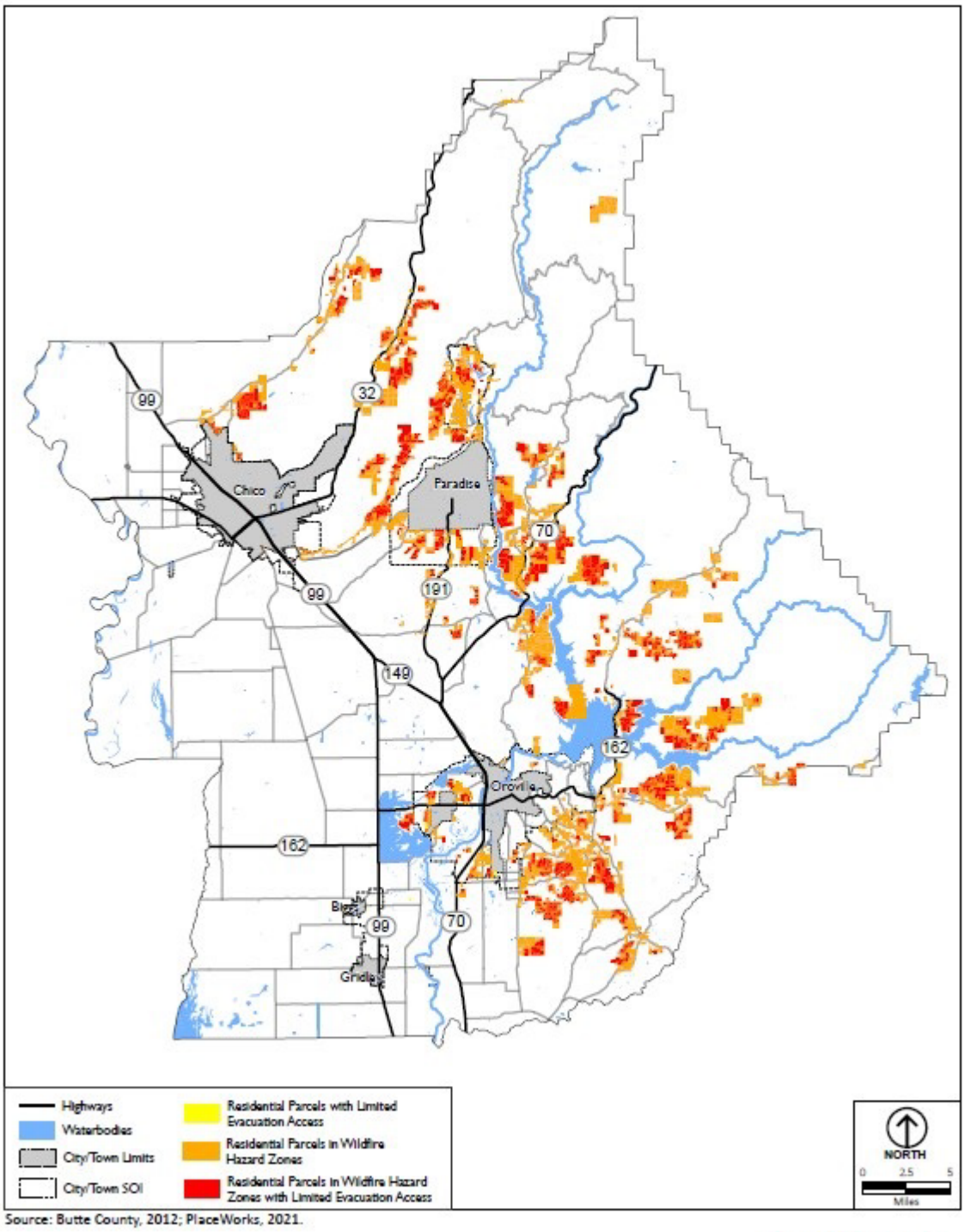


Source: Butte County, 2012; PlaceWorks, 2021; FEMA 2019; DWR 2008

FIGURE HS-15

EVACUATION CONSTRAINED AREAS IN FLOOD HAZARD ZONES

FIGURE HS-16 EVACUATION CONSTRAINED AREAS IN WILDFIRE HAZARD ZONES



Source: Butte County, 2012; PlaceWorks, 2021.

FIGURE HS-16

EVACUATION CONSTRAINED AREAS IN WILDFIRE HAZARD ZONES

[9] Zimmerman, Joseph. 2020. Service Assessment November 2018 Camp Fire, NOAA, https://www.weather.gov/media/publications/assessments/sa1162SignedReport.pdf.

B. Goals, Policies, and Actions

Goal HS-16 **Ensure communities are prepared for and able to respond to emergency situations and disasters with changing future conditions.**

Policies

HS-P16.1 The County shall conduct continuous advance planning to anticipate potential threats and improve emergency response effectiveness, including updating the Emergency Operations Plan regularly and integrating new science for hazardous conditions, emergent threats, and emergency management best practices.

HS-P16.2 The County shall continue multi-agency preparedness coordination and mutual-aid agreements among agencies to provide emergency services during disasters.

HS-P16.3 The County shall ensure emergency services can adequately serve the existing and future needs of residents and visitors.

HS-P16.4 Critical emergency response facilities such as fire, police, emergency service facilities, and utilities shall be sited to minimize their exposure to flooding, seismic effects, fire, or explosion.

HS-P16.5 Emergency access routes shall be kept free of traffic impediments.

HS-P16.6 Streets and developed properties shall be clearly marked to enable easy identification.

HS-P16.7 A variety of real-time technology and other methods for emergency notifications shall be used to ensure residents and visitors receive emergency messages when the power is out and options for safe and expedient response.

HS-P16.8 The County shall help residents and businesses to be able to adapt to extreme weather events and unforeseen weather conditions.

HS-P16.9 The County shall work with retail establishments and other economic sectors to ensure they have adequate backup power supplies and training on emergency response efforts to protect their businesses.

HS-P16.10 The County shall integrate the Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment into County decisions.

Actions

HS-A16.1 Conduct assessments and projections of future emergency service needs, considering an increase in hazards due to climate change.

HS-A16.2 Create a series of equitably located resilience hubs that can serve as gathering places during emergencies and interruptions of services, providing access to water, electricity, and other necessary services.

HS-A16.3 Integrate a virtual, online resilience hub system associated with physical resilience hubs, building off existing community websites and communication systems, to provide the community with a trusted educational source during disasters or hazardous events.

HS-A16.4 Seek funding to conduct targeted public outreach and education about cooling strategies for those populations sensitive to higher temperatures, especially seniors and those who work outdoors, lack permanent shelter, and lack air conditioning.

HS-A16.5 Update the Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment using best available data and tools during each update to this HEALTH AND SAFETY ELEMENT.

HS-A16.6 Develop a post-disaster public outreach program to support residents in the recovery and rebuilding process, including through mental and public health services to support youth, children, and adults through the trauma of disasters.

HS-A16.7 Maintain the Butte County Sheriff's Office Community Emergency Response Team program to ensure community members are prepared and can help others in an emergency.

Goal HS-17 **Ensure communities are connected and informed about climate hazard risks, preparedness, and response.**

Policies

HS-P17.1 The County shall provide alerts about potential, developing, and ongoing emergencies through extensive alert and warning systems, including radio, television, social media, website, email, and telephone, that convey information to all residents, in multiple languages and formats, to ensure it is widely accessible.

HS-P17.2 The County shall ensure residents are able to receive notifications through one or more services.

HS-P17.3 The County supports the expansion of communication services in remote areas of the county, including cell towers and call boxes.

Actions

HS-A17.1 Seek funding to develop community awareness and education programs for citizens that describe procedures and evacuation routes to be followed in the event of a disaster.

HS-A17.2 Conduct surveys and interviews to understand how emergency information is currently received and identify barriers to accessing information so that feasible and accessible resources, services, and systems can be developed and provided.

HS-A17.3 Develop a dynamic evacuation guidance and direction system that is mobile device application-based with a connection to the phone alert system to provide real-time evacuation guidance based on road capacity and the location of the hazard.

Goal HS-18 **Ensure communities have safe and reliable evacuation capabilities.**

Policies

HS-P18.1 The County shall coordinate evacuation planning with all county jurisdictions, surrounding counties, and the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans).

HS-P18.2 The County shall require new development to demonstrate access to adequate evacuation routes during potential hazard events that have capacity for residents, workers, and visitors to effectively evacuate. Evacuation routes shall demonstrate consistency with the SRA Fire Safe Regulations and Section 4290 of the California Public Resources Code.

HS-P18.3 Areas identified as evacuation constrained in the Countywide Evacuation Study and/or on Figures HS-15 and HS-16 shall be prioritized for provision of evacuation routes that have

capacity for residents, workers, and visitors to evacuate safely are designed consistent with evacuation route standards listed in Policy HS-P18.2.

HS-P18.4 The County shall work with private, state, and federal property owners to investigate opportunities for private roads to serve as publicly accessible evacuation routes.

HS-P18.5 The County shall consider funding opportunities, such as special districts, County Service Areas, or other mechanisms, to support the identification and improvement, as applicable, of primary and secondary evacuation routes in accordance with applicable evacuation plans.

HS-P18.6 The County shall prioritize roadway improvements on evacuation routes to improve emergency evacuation and access functions, where feasible, including paving, regrading, adding passing zones and pull- outs, and clearing vegetation.

HS-P18.7 Outdoor recreation areas shall incorporate places of refuge and/or markers to support location identification if emergency evacuation assistance is needed.

Actions

HS-A18.1 Plan for roadway connections to convert dead-end roads into continuous routes where feasible, providing access for both every day and emergency functions.

HS-A18.2 Continue to evaluate the capacity of evacuation routes for the number of residents and visitors that may need to evacuate and implement recommended improvements.

HS-A18.3 Make up-to-date printed and electronic evacuation route maps available to all community members.

HS-A18.4 Conduct community-level virtual evacuation exercises.

HS-A18.5 HS-A18.5 Establish an evacuation planning program to assist people with access and functional needs during evacuation events.

HS-A18.6 Create and distribute educational materials on the importance, availability, and requirements of evacuation routes for those living in High or Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones, the Wildland-Urban Interface, and 100-/200-/500-year floodplains.

VII. COMMUNITY HEALTH

A. Background Information

Community planning can directly enhance the wellness of a community. Land use planning has become a recognized tool for increasing individuals' physical activity rates, access to healthy foods, and access to health care. Such benefits are particularly important in Butte County, where the leading causes of death are cancer, coronary heart disease, lower respiratory disease, and stroke. Improving physical fitness and eating healthy foods can significantly reduce the risks for these diseases and conditions.



A Butte County farmers' market. Photo courtesy of the Butte County Department of Development Services.

Public health and planning professionals recognize that increasing individuals' physical activity is paramount for the nation's health, and that planning communities that are more conducive to active modes of transportation can have an enormous impact on increasing physical activity rates.

Goals, policies, and actions that promote active modes of transportation are also found in the LAND USE ELEMENT and CIRCULATION ELEMENT.

In addition to physical activity and healthy food and water, access to health care is an important community health factor that is affected by land use planning. The County operates two health clinics. The Chico Clinic is on Oleander Avenue in Chico and the Oroville Clinic is on Table Mountain Boulevard in Oroville. Both clinics are fully serviced by licensed medical professionals and offer communicable disease screening, breast cancer early detection services, tuberculosis testing, immunizations, well-child exams, and family planning services.

B. Goals, Policies, and Actions

Policies related to community health are also addressed in other sections of this General Plan, including:

- Environmental justice in the ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ELEMENT.
- Fire and police services in the Public Facilities and Services Element.
- Parks and recreational opportunities in the Public Facilities and Services Element.
- Water and air quality in the Conservation and Open Space Element.
- Public safety issues throughout this HEALTH AND SAFETY ELEMENT.

Goal HS-19 **Provide for the health, safety, and well-being of the county's present and future residents.**

Policies

HS-P19.1 The County supports physical infrastructure that encourages active transportation, such as bike paths, walking paths, and trails to promote public health.

HS-P19.2 The County shall promote opportunities for physical activities, such as walking and biking, and encourage patterns of new development that promote physical activity and encourage bicycling, walking, and transit.

HS-P19.3 Where feasible, new or remodeled public recreation facilities shall be designed with features that are accessible to individuals of all ages and abilities.

HS-P19.4 The County supports programs for youth physical activity and senior mobility.

HS-P19.5 HS-P19.5 The County shall work with the incorporated municipalities and private landowners to improve access to markets, gardens, parks, and transportation.

HS-P19.6 The County supports and encourages community gardens and farmers' markets as a means to provide access to healthy and local foods, including on school grounds. Farmers' markets are encouraged to accept EBT (Electronic Benefits Transfer) to maximize access.

HS-P19.1 High-quality grocery stores are encouraged in areas with limited access to healthy food.

HS-P19.2 Efforts to improve food security and eliminate hunger, such as food assistance and nutrition programs, shall be continued.

HS-P19.3 Alcohol, tobacco, and cannabis retail stores are discouraged in areas that already have high concentrations of these uses.

HS-P19.4 The County shall continue to work collaboratively with vector control, Mosquito Abatement Districts, and other agencies to protect public health in Butte County.

HS-P19.5 Available state-generated community health information, such as incidence of diabetes or heart disease, shall be considered when making decisions about the built environment that could affect community health.

HS-P19.6 County offices and County-sponsored events shall promote healthy communities by modeling healthy practices, for example, by offering safe and ample bicycle parking at County offices or by offering healthy food choices at County events.

HS-P19.7 The County shall encourage the provision of basic health and medical services in schools.

HS-P19.8 The County encourages the development of integrated and collaborative projects that provide whole-person care (i.e., embedded mental health, substance use disorder, and primary care in the same building).

HS-P19.9 The County shall work with local medical providers and hospitals to ensure that medical facilities are prepared to meet any increased demand from hazardous events.

Actions

HS-A19.1 Seek grant funding for program planning and interventions to improve access to and consumption of healthy food and physical activity.

HS-A19.2 Inventory and map food deserts in the unincorporated county and develop a plan to address identified gaps.

HS-A19.3 Identify and eliminate barriers in the permitting process for mobile farmers' markets.

HS-A19.4 Identify funding opportunities to sustain and/or expand free and reduced-price meal programs for low-income youth year-round.

HS-A19.5 Coordinate with existing agencies and organizations to develop a program to deliver meals to low-income youth during school closure events.

HS-A19.6 Consider development of a Tobacco Retail Licensing Ordinance to establish a local licensing fee that would be used to fund tobacco- related compliance and enforcement work.

HS-A19.7 Develop and implement programs to promote smoke-free multifamily housing and reduce the incidence of second-hand and third-hand smoke exposure.

HS-A19.8 Provide regular staff-level reports to the Board of Supervisors with recommendations on ways that the County may address newly emerging public health concerns.

HS-A19.9 Hold regular meetings between Department of Development Services staff and Department of Public Health staff to review emerging health issues.

HS-A19.10 Develop a program to conduct education and outreach to inform Butte County residents about the services offered at the two County health clinics.

HS-A19.11 Amend the Zoning Ordinance to minimize barriers and streamline the permitting process for the development of medical facilities.

HS-A19.12 Seek legislative reform of the Lanterman-Petris-Short (LPS) Act, which regulates involuntary civil commitments to mental health institutions, to improve the ability for counties to provide mental health care to those in need.

VIII. CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE

In 2021, Butte County updated the 2018 Draft Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment to be consistent with Government Code Section 65302(g)(4), as part of the update to this HEALTH AND SAFETY ELEMENT. This analysis assesses the extent to which the diverse populations and assets in Butte County are vulnerable to different emergencies and hazardous conditions that may be created or made worse by climate change. The primary categories of populations and assets assessed include populations, buildings and infrastructure, economic drivers, ecosystems and natural resources, and key services. Populations and assets were evaluated for their vulnerability to seven hazards, including agriculture and forestry pests and diseases, drought, extreme heat, human health hazards, severe wind, severe storms, and wildfire. The assessment follows the recommended process in the updated California Adaptation Planning Guide, which is the state's guidance for how local communities should conduct climate adaptation planning efforts, including vulnerability assessments. As defined by the California Adaptation Planning Guide, climate change vulnerability is the degree to which natural, built, and human systems are susceptible to harm from exposure or stresses associated with climate change and from the absence of capacity to adapt.

A. Background Information

1. Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment

Changes to the global climate system are expected to affect future occurrences of natural hazards in and around Butte County. Many hazards that already affect Butte County—including high heat, extreme storms, wildfire, drought, and flooding—are projected to become more frequent and more intense in coming years and decades. In some cases, these trends have already begun. This section discusses some of the anticipated effects of climate change in Butte County. More information on these effects and the harm they may pose to the community can be found in the Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment. The following list summarizes the climate change hazards assessment in the Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment.

- Projections show that warmer temperatures will cause an increase in average annual extreme heat events. Depending on future greenhouse gas (GHG) emission levels, the countywide number of extreme heat days is expected to rise from a historical average of 5 annually to up to 29 extreme heat days by the middle of the century on average, and up to 59 extreme heat days on average by the end of the century. In addition to increases in extreme heat events, all of Butte County is also expected to see an increase in average daily high temperatures.
- Both droughts and floods are expected to become more frequent as periods of very high and very low precipitation become more common. Warmer temperatures are expected to increase the rate of snowmelt in the Sierra during spring, which may also contribute to greater flooding at that time of year. This shift in snowmelt timing, coupled with the higher likelihood of precipitation falling as rain instead of snow, may reduce water availability later in the year, increasing the risk of drought in the late summer and autumn.
- Hotter, drier weather is expected to lead to an increase in wildfires in Butte County. Historically, an average of 5,306 acres burned annually. This is expected to increase to an annual average of 8,961 acres burned per year by midcentury and an annual average of 13,939 acres burned per year by end of the century. Across the region, smoke from more frequent and intense wildfires may also increase poor air quality. Wildfire conditions can be exacerbated by strong winds associated with strong storm systems. These winds can also cause Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) events throughout the county.
- Climate change is expected to cause an increase in intense rainfall, which is usually associated with strong storm systems. Heavy rainfall may also contribute to an increased risk of landslides in the mountain regions of Butte County. Compared to their historical average, the average number of extreme precipitation events is projected to approximately double by the end of this century. Severe winter weather, such as heavy snowfall, ice storms, or extreme cold, may also become more frequent and intense because of climate change.
- Climate change is associated with several threats to human and ecosystem health. Changes in temperatures and precipitation patterns may cause pests and diseases that have historically not been present in Butte County to expand their ranges into the area. There are a number of diseases that are linked to climate change and can be harmful to the health of Butte County community members, such as hantavirus pulmonary syndrome, Lyme disease, West Nile fever, and influenza. Many of these diseases are carried by animals such as mice and rats, ticks, and mosquitos. Warmer temperatures earlier in the spring and later in the fall can cause these animals to be active for longer periods, increasing the time that these diseases can be transmitted.

2. Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment Results

The Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment indicates that Butte County's populations and assets are most vulnerable to wildfire, severe storms, extreme heat, and severe wind.

While many aspects of climate change are expected to affect community health and well-being in Butte County, populations in the eastern portion of the county are most vulnerable to wildfires and populations in the western portion of the county are most vulnerable to severe storms, including flooding. Countywide, nearly all populations are highly vulnerable to extreme heat. Financial limitations, access, and function needs, those more exposed to the outdoors, and lack of access to communication or community services cause the most vulnerable populations to be low-resourced people of color, outdoor workers, households in poverty, immigrant communities, persons experiencing homelessness, and seniors living alone. The homes that these populations live in, especially those in fire hazard, landslide, or flood zones, are highly vulnerable to direct damage from these hazards, as well as indirect damage from forestry pests and diseases that can weaken trees and cause them to fall on properties during severe wind or storm events. These populations most often face challenges with evacuating during emergencies due to lack of vehicles, inability to drive, or isolated nature of their residence or place of employment.

Countywide, the electricity transmission system is vulnerable to multiple hazards, including severe wind, severe storms, wildfire, and extreme heat. Severe wind can trigger PSPS events, extreme heat can reduce the capacity and strain the system, and wildfires can damage the system, disrupting energy service. Extreme heat can lead to power outages by causing mechanical failure of grid equipment, heat damage to power lines, and a high demand for electricity to power air conditioners, all of which places stress on the electrical grid and may lead to service disruptions. Severe storm and severe wind conditions can also damage communication infrastructure, decreasing network capacity. There may be a higher demand for communication services during severe weather, potentially putting stress on the network and increasing the risk of service interruptions.

PSPS events can also create vulnerabilities for Butte County community members. The vast majority of homes and businesses do not have backup power supplies, so a loss of electricity can cause a loss of refrigeration for food and medical supplies, limited cooking, limited or no heating or cooling (particularly dangerous during extreme heat or cold events), no lighting, and limited or no access to the Internet or other information systems. Many businesses are forced to close during a PSPS event, causing economic hardships and depriving community members of important services, such as grocery stores, gas stations, and banks/ATMs. PSPS events may also be harmful to people who depend on electrically powered medical devices. Some property owners have purchased backup power generators; however, these produce high levels of noise, pollution, and odors.

Key infrastructure, such as major roads, highways, and single-accessed roads, can become impassable due to severe wind, severe storms, and wildfire, isolating populations in remote areas of the county and disrupting services to those areas. This can also prevent effective evacuations during emergencies such as wildfire, landslides, and flooding. Water and wastewater treatment services may also be impacted by severe storm events, which may damage water infrastructure and interrupt service, especially shallow septic systems and water wells that could be impacted during flooding. Floodwaters can overwhelm the septic systems, causing them to overflow and contaminate drinking water supplies. This can cause disruptions in both water and wastewater infrastructure and services.

Butte County's agricultural industry is the most vulnerable economic driver in the county, with high vulnerability to all seven hazards evaluated in the Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment. Severe weather and severe wind can harm or kill crops or livestock and damage infrastructure, reducing agricultural yields and necessitating costly repairs. Drought can reduce the amount of water available and raise water prices, reducing agricultural profits and/or requiring that farmers change their irrigation methods. Extreme heat can damage a number of different crops and can result in widespread animal illnesses or even death of livestock. Extreme heat, human health hazards, and smoke from wildfires can harm the outdoor workers in the agricultural sector, causing adverse health effects to farmworkers. As a result, agricultural yields and the cost of operations will likely be affected and impact local economies.

An increase in forestry pests and diseases, droughts, extreme heat, and wildfire create higher vulnerability for the county's natural environments, including conifer forests, oak woodland, open water, and wetland ecosystems. Drought and extreme heat can stress trees, weakening or killing them. Weakened trees are more susceptible to forestry pests, creating a risk of further damage. Droughts and extreme heat may imperil aquatic and wetland ecosystems. These changes can also affect local economic activities in Butte County, such as outdoor recreation and visiting the county's national forests.

B. Goals, Policies, and Actions

Policies related to climate change resilience for forests, agricultural lands, and water supply are also provided in the timber resources section of the Conservation and Open Space Element, AGRICULTURE ELEMENT, and WATER RESOURCES ELEMENT, respectively.

Goal HS-20 **Ensure communities can continue to function and thrive with an increase in average temperatures and extreme heat days.**

Policies

HS-P20.1 The County shall coordinate with the California Division of Occupational Safety and Health to ensure agricultural, timber, construction, recreation, and other outdoor industries provide adequate drinking water, shade, and alternative work hours to prevent workers from getting heat-related illness.

HS-P20.2 Facilities, such as parks and community centers, shall be equipped with adequate water stations, cooling stations, and shady outdoor spaces to provide refuge from extreme heat, and should have effective systems in place to notify community members about these resources.

HS-P20.3 The County encourages the Butte County Association of Governments (BCAG) to establish a countywide shuttle system to operate during extreme heat events with specific pickup points, providing access to local cooling centers for persons who are unable to drive or lack access to a vehicle.

Actions

HS-A20.1 Develop an extreme heat response plan that sets equitable locations for cooling centers, temperature triggers for when they open, and extreme heat education programs for residents and visitors.

HS-A20.2 Partner with local community-based organizations to pursue grant funding opportunities to provide financial assistance or reduced costs for energy retrofits, cooling, ventilation, or other adaptation measures to help protect low-income households, senior citizens, and other vulnerable persons against extreme heat events.

HS-A20.3 Conduct outreach and educational programs about extreme heat for senior centers, community groups, schools, churches, and sports organizations.

HS-A20.4 Work with the Butte County Association of Governments (BCAG) to establish a transportation working group consisting of public, private, volunteer, and service organizations to develop a plan to ensure vulnerable populations are provided transportation to cooling centers.

HS-A20.5 Identify and connect with local groups and organizations to engage youth in climate change resilience planning.

Goal HS-21 **Ensure utilities, buildings, and infrastructure are climate resilient and able to meet vital community needs during and after severe storm events.**

Policies

HS-P21.1 The County supports the development of community and neighborhood microgrids that use renewable energy sources, including energy storage, which can provide sustainable and reliable electricity supply that is not shut off during PSPS events.

HS-P21.2 The County encourages internet and telephone communication providers to install redundant facilities, improve service coverage, and reduce the chance of service outages, emphasizing emergency communication services.

HS-P21.3 At least one emergency generator shall be maintained in all critical facilities that could be used as an emergency public assembly area.

HS-P21.4 Capital Improvement Projects shall include facility and infrastructure upgrades that address key vulnerabilities identified in the Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment and Local Hazard Mitigation Plan and be designed to resist future climate projections with a high level of risk aversion.

Actions

HS-A21.1 Continue working with the Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) to underground electrical transmission and distribution lines in new and existing development, prioritizing lines in areas at highest risk for wildfire and with high winds.

HS-A21.2 Coordinate with PG&E to conduct regular evaluations and retrofits of energy transmission and delivery infrastructure.

HS-A21.3 Coordinate with PG&E to establish equitably located community resource or resilience centers for use during PSPS and other hazard events.

HS-A21.4 Evaluate County-owned emergency management facilities and utility systems for susceptibility to PSPS events and install backup battery storage systems, generators, or other backup systems if facilities and systems are susceptible.

HS-A21.5 Streamline the permitting process to support private property conversion to solar with battery backup systems or the ability to wire electrical panels for whole-house generator services.

HS-A21.6 Publicize available incentives and explore additional opportunities to encourage private building owners to install solar panels and backup battery storage systems.

HS-A21.7 Coordinate with Caltrans, BCAG, and municipalities within the county to make repairs and upgrades to transportation infrastructure that improve resilience to climate change, including roads and bridges maintained by the County and those maintained by other agencies.

HS-A21.8 Seek funding, such as Hazard Mitigation Grants, California Resilience Challenge Grants, Better Together Communities Grants, or Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Grants, to develop an infrastructure resilience plan that addresses vulnerable infrastructure and considers climate change hazards.

12 PUBLIC FACILITIES AND SERVICE ELEMENT

Butte County is committed to providing a high quality of life for its residents. This commitment includes providing needed public services, infrastructure and facilities that are accessible to and benefit all county residents, including the use and enjoyment of public lands in and near Butte County. This Public Facilities and Services Element addresses the public services, infrastructure and facilities provided by Butte County, and coordination with public land managers. This Element also presents information and policy guidance to ensure adequate provision and maintenance of Butte County facilities and services. Although the Public Facilities section is not explicitly required by State law, the topics addressed here are an integral part of the County's overall planning strategy and a basic consideration in setting a growth and development policy.

The following components are included in this Element:

- General Government Services
- Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services
- Sheriff Services
- Public Education
- Libraries
- Parks and Recreation
- Solid Waste and Waste Diversion
- Wastewater



The service counter at the Department of Development Services streamlines government services. Photo courtesy of the Butte County Department of Development Services.

Each of these components is divided into the following sections:

- **Background Information:** Contains information on current facilities and public services in Butte County. An expanded discussion about existing public services in Butte County, including fire protection, law enforcement and education, can be found in Chapter 7 (Public Services) of the Butte County General Plan 2030 Setting and Trends Report. Parks and Recreation are covered in Chapter 8, and Wastewater and Solid Waste are covered in Chapter 6.
- **Goals, Policies and Actions:** Provides guidance to the County regarding public facilities and services decisions.

Water service, water quality, stormwater management and water conservation are addressed in the Water Element.

I. GENERAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES

A. Background Information

Butte County provides a wide array of State-mandated services to residents in the unincorporated county as well as in the incorporated municipalities, including behavioral health services, public health services, supportive services for youth and seniors, veterans' services, food stamps, financial assistance, elections, marriage licenses, property tax assessment, the District Attorney's office and the Public Defender's office, among many others.

The majority of County offices are located along County Center Drive in Oroville. Other County facilities, including police and fire stations and public works corporation yards, are distributed elsewhere in the county.

In order to streamline government services, a service counter for development is provided at the front counter of the Development Services Department and some services are available on-line on the County's website. Community members may also attend the regular Board of Supervisors, Planning Commission and other commission meetings in the Board Chambers.

B. Goals, Policies and Actions

Goal PUB-1 **Maintain facilities and staff adequate to provide appropriate levels of government services and administration for the residents of Butte County.**

Policies

PUB-P1.1 Residents shall be educated about the realities of rural living and expectations regarding the availability of services and service response times in rural areas.

PUB-P1.2 County facilities shall be designed, constructed and operated to be environmentally sustainable, and beneficial to the community and the region.*

PUB-P1.3 Government facilities shall be consolidated in satellite service centers when community populations reach appropriate thresholds.

PUB-P1.4 Governmental and civic facilities shall accommodate multiple community uses.

PUB-P1.5 All service providers shall be offered appropriate opportunities to comment on pending development project applications.

Actions

PUB-A1.1 Explore the use of assessment districts, community facilities districts, county service areas and other special districts to fund both capital and on-going operational costs, in order to provide for new development paying its fair share of infrastructure and ongoing costs.

II. FIRE PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

A. Background Information

The Butte County Fire Department (BCFD) and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) provide fire and emergency services to the entire unincorporated county population, protecting over 1,600 square miles, with the exception of the Cities of Chico and Oroville, the Town of Paradise and the El Medio Fire Protection District. Services include the following:

- Fire control for structural, vegetation, vehicular and other unwanted fires.
- Emergency medical service and technical rescue response.
- Hazardous materials response.
- Flood control assistance.
- Fire prevention and public safety education.
- Fire law enforcement/arson investigation.
- Vegetation management.

The BCFD also operates countywide dispatch services, coordinates major emergency response within the county as the Office of Emergency Management's mutual aid coordinator, and provides training for career and volunteer fire fighters.

BCFD partners with local fire protection organizations to provide optimal services in a cost-effective manner. BCFD contracts with CAL FIRE through an annual cooperative agreement to supply staff members to the BCFD. The County funds CAL FIRE professional command, fire-fighting and administrative staff to operate the BCFD. Through this arrangement, CAL FIRE and the BCFD function together as a fully consolidated fire protection agency. In addition, BCFD has established automatic aid agreements and mutual aid agreements to provide optimal fire service. BCFD has agreements with every fire-fighting agency in the county, the US Forest Service, Lassen and Plumas National Forests, Hamilton City in Glenn County, Sutter County, Tehama County and several fire districts in Yuba County.

Volunteer fire fighters are an integral component of the fire protection system in Butte County. BCFD is supported by 150 volunteer fire fighters. The volunteer companies are dispatched by the CAL FIRE and BCFD Emergency Command

Center (ECC) as needed. The volunteer companies often provide the first response to an emergency in the rural portions of the county that are some distance from a BCFD or CAL FIRE station.

In addition to fire engine responses, the department's ECC provides Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) services. In 2005, the ECC gave potentially life-saving information over the phone to 70 people. These EMD procedures provide life saving instructions for Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation, control of bleeding, child birth, choking and other emergency medical information before fire engines and paramedics arrive.

B. Goals, Policies and Actions

Goal PUB-2 **Provide adequate fire protection and emergency medical response services to serve existing and new development.**

Policies

PUB-P2.1 The County supports the expansion of fire volunteer services, especially in remote areas, as warranted by Standards of Cover criteria.

PUB-P2.2 The adopted Standards of Cover for fire protection shall be maintained and implemented.

PUB-P2.3 New fire stations shall be located on sites that are easily accessible, close to existing or future development and/or close to fire hazard areas.

PUB-P2.4 The County supports coordinated efforts between State, federal, and local agencies; nonprofit organizations; and BCFD to plan, obtain funding, and implement fuels reduction projects to protect residents in and around fire hazard areas.



The Butte County Sheriff's Office is responsible for law enforcement in the unincorporated county. Photo courtesy of Steve Perez, Butte County Sheriff's Office.

III. SHERIFF SERVICES

A. Background Information

Law enforcement services in Butte County are provided by the Butte County Sheriff's Office, the California Highway Patrol (CHP) and police agencies in the Cities of Chico, Oroville, Gridley and Biggs and the Town of Paradise.

1. Butte County Sheriff

The Butte County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) is responsible for law enforcement, criminal investigation and crime prevention in the unincorporated areas of the county. The BCSO is also the countywide coordinator for mutual aid situations and maintains mutual aid agreements with the CHP and the municipal police departments. The BCSO has its main office in Oroville, with sub-stations in Chico and Magalia. The BCSO is responsible for administering the County Jail, which is utilized by all law enforcement agencies within Butte County.

2. California Highway Patrol

The CHP provides law enforcement services, primarily traffic control, for State roads and roads in the unincorporated portions of the county. These services include traffic control, accident investigation and licensing of vehicles. The CHP has a mutual aid agreement with the Sheriff's Department and will respond when requested by the Sheriff.

3. Municipal Police Departments

The BCSO maintains mutual aid agreements with the Oroville, Chico, Gridley, Biggs and Paradise municipal police departments. Municipal police departments are responsible for protecting the citizens and property within their jurisdictions. Under the terms of the mutual aid agreements, the BCSO can assume that role in these jurisdictions upon request or in the event of the inability of municipal police departments to provide police enforcement.[1]

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[1] Kuhn, John. Lieutenant, Butte County Sheriff's Office. Personal Communication with Jessica Daniels, DC&E, August 6, 2009.

B. Goals, Policies and Actions

Goal PUB-3 Maintain a safe environment in Butte County through the enforcement of law.

Policies

PUB-P3.1 The County supports the expansion of volunteer services for law enforcement.

PUB-P3.2 The BCSO shall support citizen efforts to strengthen and expand neighborhood watch programs, including in commercial areas.

IV. PUBLIC EDUCATION

A. Background Information

The County Office of Education (BCOE), Butte Community College, California State University, Chico and local school districts provide public education in Butte County. The local districts provide elementary and secondary education to the municipalities and unincorporated areas of the county, while the County Office of Education offers special education programs and other related services to the individual districts within the county. Butte Community College is a two-year junior college and California State University, Chico, is a four-year college.

1. Butte County Office of Education

The BCOE provides local and regional educational programs, services and support to the individual school districts within the county and outside the county. The BCOE provides help to establish and maintain a consistent level of educational quality among the various school districts and serves as a link between the local districts and the requirements of State and federal education programs.

The BCOE provides three areas of service to the school districts: administrative and organizational support, curriculum and staff support, and student services. In addition, BCOE operates the juvenile court schools and a series of special service programs, including migrant education, the regional occupational program, drug and alcohol education, special education and many other services.

2. Butte College

Butte College is a two-year community college that serves the residents of Butte and Glenn Counties. Founded in 1967, the college offers a range of liberal arts and career/technical classes through full-time, part-time and evening programs. The main campus, located approximately 15 miles northwest of Oroville, is accessible to the communities of Oroville, Chico, Durham, Gridley, Paradise and Magalia, and is approximately 925 acres in size. The college also operates two satellite centers, one in Chico and the second in Orland in Glenn County.

3. California State University, Chico

California State University, Chico (Chico State), was established in 1887. Located in Chico, the campus serves Butte County and the region. Chico State has seven colleges, six schools and 14 centers. The campus itself is 119 acres in size. Chico State is one of the California State University system's most popular campuses, and is the second oldest campus in the system.

4. School Districts within Butte County

The following school districts serve Butte County and are shown on Figure PUB-1.

- Biggs Unified School District
- Chico Unified School District
- Durham Unified School District
- Paradise Unified School District
- Gridley Union High School District
- Gridley Union Elementary School District
- Manzanita Elementary School District
- Oroville Union High School District
- Bangor Union Elementary School District
- Feather Falls Union School District
- Golden Feather Union School District

- Oroville City Elementary School District
- Palermo Union Elementary School District
- Pioneer Union Elementary School District
- Thermalito Union School District



Butte College is a two-year community college in the center of Butte County. Photo by DC&E.

In addition to these listed school districts, a portion of the Marysville Joint Unified School District extends into Butte County, although it primarily serves Yuba County. As shown in Figure PUB-1, four of the districts (Biggs, Chico, Durham and Paradise) are unified school districts, serving students from kindergarten through high school. Seven districts (Bangor, Feather Falls, Golden Feather, Oroville City, Palermo, Pioneer and Thermalito) provide elementary education throughout the county, feeding students into Oroville Union High School District for secondary education. Two additional districts (Gridley Union Elementary and Manzanita Elementary) provide elementary education and feed students into the Gridley Union High School District for secondary education.

FIGURE PUB-1 SCHOOL DISTRICTS

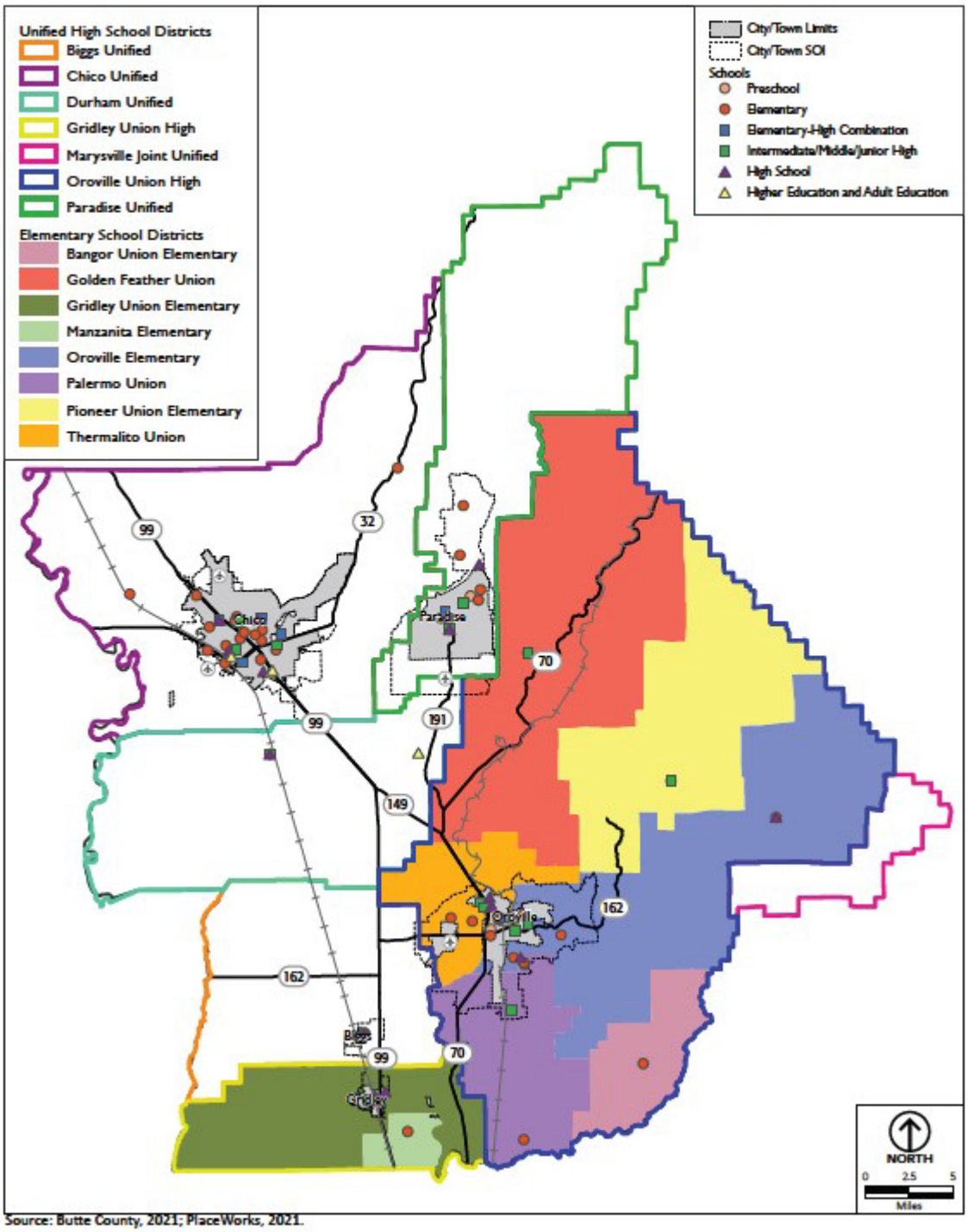


Figure PUB-1
SCHOOL DISTRICTS

B. Goals, Policies and Actions

Goal PUB-4 **Support high-quality schools and educational facilities for all Butte County residents.**

Policies

PUB-P4.1 Review of development proposals shall be coordinated with school districts to determine and plan for capacity issues over time.

PUB-P4.2 Review of development proposals shall be coordinated with school districts regarding the location and design of new schools.

PUB-P4.3 Plans for future growth areas shall incorporate new school sites as appropriate.

PUB-P4.4 Infrastructure development projects shall be coordinated to minimize the cost to the public of building needed schools.

PUB-P4.5 Information on projected population growth and development patterns shall be provided to school districts to facilitate adequate school facilities.

PUB-P4.6 School districts shall have the opportunity to review proposed residential developments and make recommendations about the need for additional facilities based on school-child projections, existing school capacity, access and traffic issues.

PUB-P4.7 New development projects shall be approved only if the County and the applicable School District finds that existing or planned schools will be adequate to serve it.

PUB-P4.8 Private school developers shall locate schools such that safe routes to school are possible, and shall construct those safe routes when constructing new roadways and sidewalks.

Actions

PUB-A4.1 Pursue funding for improvements through the Active Transportation Program, and prioritize improvements where there are existing school access problems.

V. LIBRARIES

A. Background Information

The Butte County Library is the sole provider of public library services in the county. As such, the Butte County Library provides library services to all county residents through a consolidated operation from its headquarters in Oroville and branches in Biggs, Chico, Durham, Gridley and Paradise. In its various branches, the Library houses a collection of over 330,000 items, including books, videos, DVDs, music CDs and books on tape and CD, most of which are available for checkout by library cardholders. Butte County Library branches also provide children's story time programs, book discussion groups for adults, film screenings and other entertaining and educational programs conducted by both paid staff and volunteers.[2]

[2] Holmes, Deborah. Senior Administrative Assistant. Butte County Library. Personal Communication with Jessica Daniels, DC&E, August 6, 2009.

B. Goals, Policies and Actions

Goal PUB-5 **Provide library services to meet the informational and social needs of each community.**

Policies

PUB-P5.1 Funding of library operations should be maintained or expanded as the budget allows.

Actions

PUB-A5.1 Identify opportunities to partner with the municipalities, other agencies and library support organizations in providing library facilities and services.

PUB-A5.2 Pursue partnerships with schools, universities, colleges, social service agencies, cultural institutions and other organizations in communities to provide services where County library facilities are infeasible.

VI. PARKS AND RECREATION

A. Background Information

A wide range of recreational facilities and recreational programs are found in Butte County, offering numerous recreational opportunities to local residents and visitors. Federal and State recreation lands are displayed in Figure PUB-2.



Midway Park, operated by the Durham Unified School District and the Durham Recreation and Park District. Photo courtesy of the Butte County Department of Development Services.

FIGURE PUB-2 FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL RECREATION LANDS

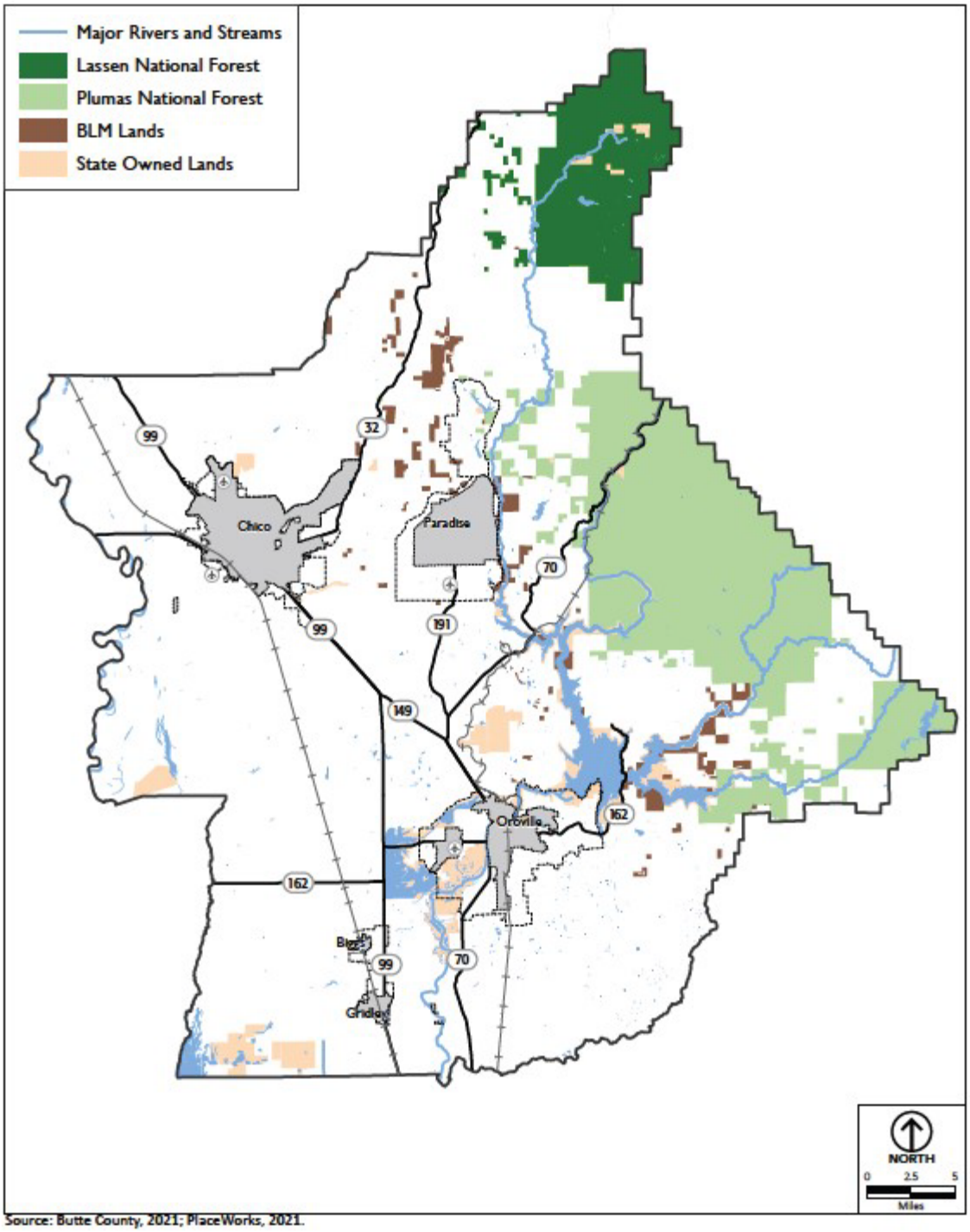


Figure PUB-2

FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL RECREATION LANDS

The five municipalities and five large special independent districts maintain many of the parks and recreational facilities in Butte County. Butte County does not provide a park and recreation program. The five recreation and park districts, which encompass most of the County's land area, operate as "independent" districts, meaning that each district is governed by a board of directors elected by the voters in that district. The districts in Butte County are also non-enterprise districts, meaning that they depend mainly on property taxes for operating revenue, rather than user fees. Butte County's five recreation and park districts are shown in Figure PUB-3 and include the following:

- Chico Area Recreation and Park District (CARD)
- Durham Recreation and Park District (DRPD)
- Feather River Recreation and Park District (FRRPD)
- Paradise Recreation and Park District (PRPD)
- Richvale Recreation and Park District (RRPD)

As shown in Figure PUB-3, no special recreation and park district serves the Gridley and Biggs area. The Cities of Gridley and Biggs provide recreation facilities and programs and two small County Service Areas fund swimming pools that serve these communities. The pools are owned by Butte County and managed by Biggs Unified School District in Biggs and the Fairgrounds in Gridley.

The recreation and park districts manage a number of parks in unincorporated Butte County. There are 618 acres of parkland in unincorporated Butte County, serving a population of about 83,900 people. Countywide, this amount of parkland seems adequate to serve the needs of the residents of unincorporated Butte County, as it provides a service ratio of over 7 acres of parkland for every 1,000 residents. However, a major portion of this land is open space and not accessible. Many unincorporated communities and residential areas in Butte County do not contain parks and are not located near park facilities. Table PUB-1 shows the acreages of developed and undeveloped parks within all of Butte County.

In addition to the municipal and special district facilities, there are a number of federal and State parks, campgrounds, lakes and streams for boating and fishing, recreation areas, reserves and trails that offer important recreation opportunities within the county, including Plumas National Forest, Lassen National Forest, various Bureau of Land Management holdings, and the Lake Oroville State Recreation Area. Many rural county roads provide trailhead access to National Forests and other State and federal lands for off-highway vehicles, hiking and equestrian trails, and other recreational pursuits. These opportunities serve both local residents and visitors to Butte County.

FIGURE PUB-3 RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICTS IN BUTTE COUNTY

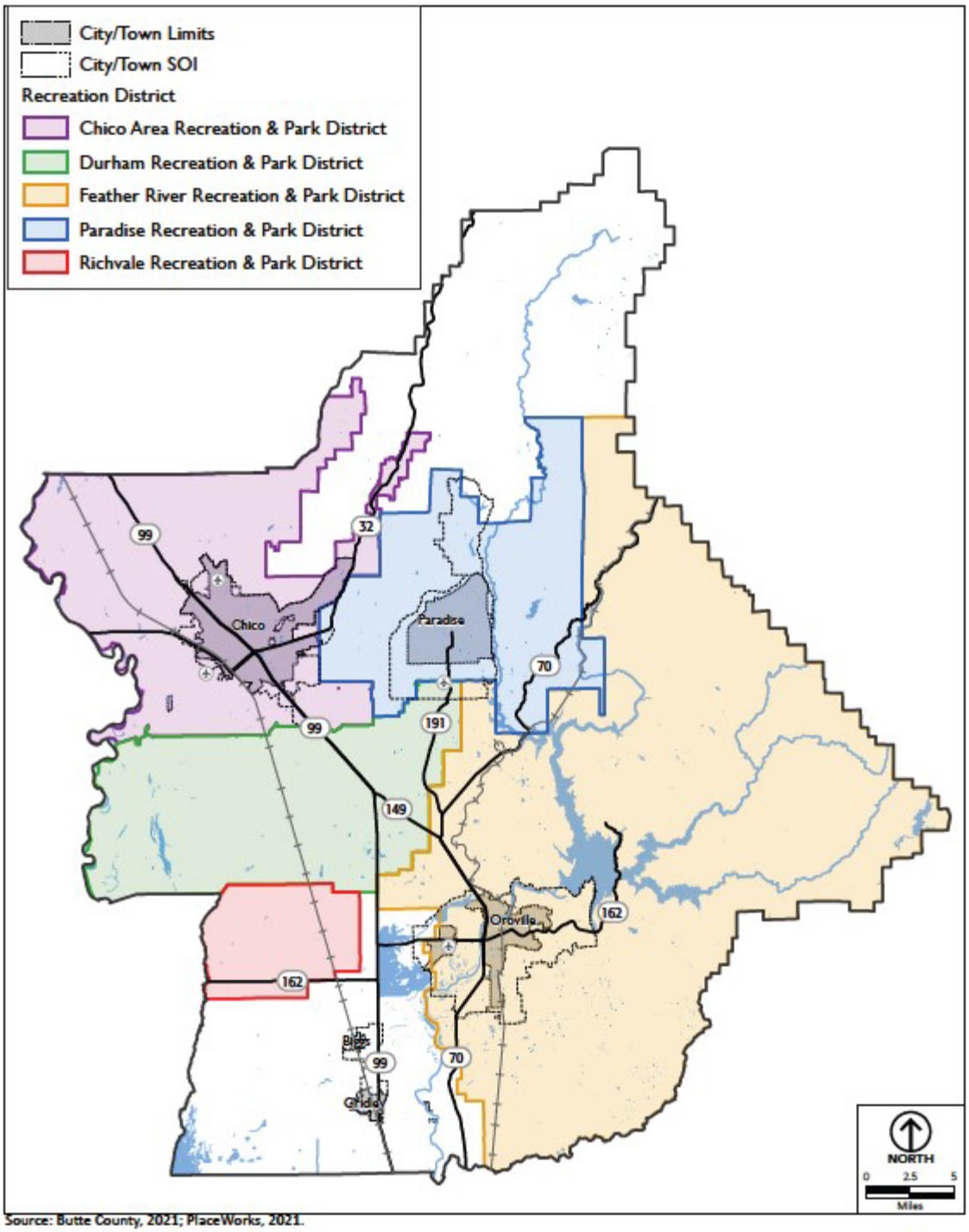


Figure PUB-3

RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICTS IN BUTTE COUNTY

TABLE PUB-1 PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES WITHIN BUTTE COUNTY			
Facility	**Acres Undeveloped**	**Areas Developed**	**Total Acres**
Durham Recreation and Park District			
Durham Community Park		24.0	24.0
Ravekes Park		0.5	0.5
Louis Edwards Park		3.9	3.9
Nelson Park		2.0	2.0
Midway Park		3.9	3.9
Dwight Brinson Swim Center			
Durham Memorial Hall			
Subtotal		*34.3*	*34.3*
Paradise Recreation and Park District			
Terry Ashe Recreation Center		3.5	3.5
Aquatic Park		6.0	6.0
Moore Road Park		19.0	19.0
Bille Park	40.0	15.0	55.0
Coutolenc Park	300.0	20.0	320.0
Paradise Memorial Park		2.0	2.0
Crain Park		8.0	8.0
Oak Creek Park	17.0		17.0
Drendle Circle	0.5		0.5
Paradise High School		2.0	2.0
Mountain Ridge Middle School Gymnasium			
Maintenance Shop		0.75	0.75
Subtotal	357.5	*76.25*	*433.75*
Chico Area Recreation and Park District			
Dorothy Johnson Center/Park		3.0	3.0
Oakway Park		8.0	8.0
Peterson Park		4.1	4.1
Rotary Park		0.3	0.3
Hooker Oak Park		35.0	35.0
Community Park		40.0	40.0
DeGarmo Park	16.0	20.0	36.0
Little Chico Creek		15.6	15.6
CARD Community Center		3.0	3.0
Pleasant Valley Center/Pool		1.1	1.1
Shapiro Pool		0.44	0.44
Sycamore Field		3.5	3.5
Subtotal	*16.0*	*130.89*	*146.89*
Feather River Recreation and Park District			
Mitchell Park		15.3	15.3

TABLE PUB-1 PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES WITHIN BUTTE COUNTY			
Facility	**Acres Undeveloped**	**Areas Developed**	**Total Acres**
River Bend Park	27.43	56	83.43
Martin Luther King Park		5.58	5.58
Nelson Ballfield Complex		29.6	29.6
Forbestown Park/Community Center		3.67	3.67
Palermo Park		5.0	5.0
Playtown USA, Playground			
Municipal Auditorium		1.16	1.16
Bedrock Park/Amphitheatre		3.75	3.75
Bedrock Tennis Courts		1.5	1.5
Bedrock Skate and Bike Park		0.75	0.75
Gary Nolan Sports Complex		14.2	14.2
Wildlife Ponds	100		100
Subtotal	*127.43*	*136.51*	*263.94*
Total	**500.93**	**377.95**	**878.88**
Note: This table includes parks within incorporated and unincorporated Butte County that are owned and/or maintained by special districts. This table includes facilities that are within incorporated areas because they serve their entire community, which includes unincorporated areas.			

Although Butte County's unincorporated area does not have any formal or organized system of trails, federal and State agencies and park and recreation districts maintain a number of developed recreational trails in Butte County, including the following:

- **Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail.** Approximately 6 miles of the federally designated Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail is located in Lassen National Forest on the eastern Butte-Plumas County border. The Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail provides continuous recreational access from Canada to Mexico and is a very popular route.
- **The Feather Falls National Recreation Trail.** This 3.5-mile trail is located within Plumas National Forest, and provides hiking access to the Feather Falls National Scenic Area and to the Feather Falls, noted as the sixth highest waterfall in the continental United States and third highest waterfall in California. The Feather Falls trail and scenic area is a very popular spring and summer attraction.
- **Loafer Creek, Brad Freeman, and Dan Beebe Trails.** A 17.5-mile loop trail at Loafer Creek and portions of the Brad Freeman and Dan Beebe trails are accessible for hiking, equestrian and bicycle riding at Lake Oroville State Recreation Area.
- **Chico Recreation and Park District.** This District manages a system of trails that serves the Chico area.
- A Class 1 bike trail runs from Chico along the Midway to Jones Avenue in Durham.
- **Chico Recreation and Park District.** This District manages a system of trails that serves the Chico area.
- City of Chico/Bidwell Park has numerous non-motorized trails and is a popular destination point.
- **Bureau of Land Management (BLM).** The Forks of Butte Creek and other BLM landholdings provide hunting, fishing, trails, camping and other recreational opportunities.
- Trails maintained by PG&E offer hiking opportunities in the foothill areas.
- Butte County is a gateway to the Plumas and Lassen National Forests, where off- highway motorized roads and trails and non-motorized (hiking/equestrian/biking) trails are located.

The Butte County Federal/State Land Use Coordinating Committee ("Coordinating Committee") was formed at the direction of the Board of Supervisors in 2010 through County Resolution 10-002. Butte County desires to ensure that federal and State agencies inform the Board of Supervisors of all pending or proposed actions involving management of public lands affecting local communities, residents, and members of the public within the county, and coordinate with the Board of Supervisors and the Coordinating Committee in the planning and implementation of those actions. The purpose of the Coordinating Committee is to represent the County of Butte in coordinating the management plans and actions of federal and State agencies to ensure consistency with local land use plans. The County must consider land outside its boundaries and jurisdiction that bear relation to county planning, including, but not limited to matters related to fire prevention, watersheds, land use, recreation, forest management and protection and utilization of natural resources.

The Board of Supervisors established the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) to facilitate public involvement in decisions on the use of public lands, and assist the County in its quest to meet the guiding principles of the Butte County General Plan 2030 as it pertains to the management of public lands. The Committee serves to gather information and opinions from interested parties, to present pertinent recommendations to the Butte County Board of Supervisors through the Coordinating Committee, and to serve as a resource in Coordination efforts. The FAC is comprised of a Coordinating Committee Liaison and five public members and alternates representing the following areas of expertise and interest:

- Agriculture/Timber Management
- Recreation-Motorized
- Recreation-Non-motorized
- Environmental and Watershed Management
- Economic/Tourism

B. Goals, Policies and Actions

Goal PUB-6 **Support a comprehensive and high-quality system of recreational open space and facilities.**

Policies

PUB-P6.1 Review of proposed actions on public lands shall be conducted utilizing public input and such plans shall be coordinated between Butte County and the respective public agencies.

PUB-P6.2 Review of development proposals shall be coordinated with public agencies in order to designate sites for new parks and recreation facilities.

PUB-P6.3 Recreational events, such as marathons, triathlons, bicycle races, bird-watching events, rodeos or fishing tournaments, etc., shall be encouraged in Butte County, provided that the event pays for all necessary public services.

PUB-P6.4 The County supports the development of a regional recreation campus to serve community needs for recreation space and reduce the need for county residents to travel outside the county for recreation.

PUB-P6.5 New residential development shall be assessed for Quimby Act fees to support park development in coordination with parks and recreation districts.

PUB-P6.6 Allowed densities shall be increased when parks are incorporated into development projects. Parks must meet standards set in district master plans.

PUB-P6.7 Where appropriate, new residential developments should include permanently-protected and maintained open space using mechanisms such as, but not limited to, conservation easements and development agreements.

PUB-P6.8 Utilize Community Facilities Districts, Mello-Roos and/or landscaping and lighting districts to provide funding for on-going maintenance and operation of parks and recreation facilities in medium density (six dwelling units per acre) and higher density residential developments when warranted.

Actions

PUB-A6.1 Coordinate with park and recreation districts to allow the development of park and recreation facilities on publicly-owned land.

Goal PUB-7 **Encourage local, regional, State, and federal parks providers to engage in coordinated and cooperative planning efforts, and seek regular public comment and involvement in the planning process.**

Policies

PUB-P7.1 The County shall coordinate with municipalities, park and recreation districts, and school districts to plan and develop additional regional and community parks, support and coordinate park master plans, coordinate financing for recreation and park facilities, and plan for the distribution of federal and State funds for recreation and park programs and facilities.

PUB-P7.2 Implementation and development of recreation and park facilities within park and recreation district boundaries shall be consistent with the applicable district's master plans.

PUB-P7.3 The County recognizes the importance of regional planning and coordination with federal, State, and local agencies, to include neighboring counties and jurisdictions, and shall maintain a Coordinating Committee whose function is to facilitate coordination efforts with State and federal public land managers. The County shall establish additional mechanisms to solicit public participation and comment involving the utilization, management, enjoyment and sustainability of public lands.

Actions

PUB-A7.1 Assist special districts with strategies for funding, planning and support for recreation and park facility development.

PUB-A7.2 Establish a plan for the distribution of available federal and State funds for development and maintenance of programs, facilities, and recreational access to local, regional, State, and federal public lands, which shall include utilization of available grants. Involvement of organized volunteer organizations shall be encouraged to promote user engagement in development and maintenance of public lands recreation.

PUB-A7.3 Coordinate with the Bureau of Land Management, State and federal Fish and Wildlife, United States Forest Service, and State Parks to develop regional plans, including coordination with neighboring counties and jurisdictions. The County shall additionally guide plans and projects affecting the socioeconomic health and well-being of county residents and visitors. This will include issues related, but not limited to the following:

- The health and sustainability of the forest ecosystem and water resources
- The ability of residents and visitors to enjoy outdoor recreation including motorized (boating, single-track and OHV) and non-motorized (hiking/biking/equestrian/boating) access to public lands and waterways

- The appropriate utilization of public lands for grazing, timber production, hunting, and fishing.

Public input on these issues is facilitated through the Forest Advisory Committee's public meetings. Local, State, and federal land managers will be notified to attend all public meetings, where all reports, discussions, and oral testimony will be available for review as public information.

PUB-A7.4 Coordinate with municipalities, park and recreation districts, and school districts to plan and develop additional regional and community parks, support and coordinate park master plans, coordinate financing for recreation and park facilities, and plan for the distribution of federal and State funds for recreation and park programs and facilities. Support satisfactory and timely completion of State/federal approved projects, such as:

- The Clay Pit Vehicular Recreation Area Final General Plan
- Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Recreation Plans as delineated in agreements between local agencies, districts, and municipalities.

Goal PUB-8 Coordinate an interconnected, multi-use trail system.

Policies

PUB-P8.1 The County shall coordinate with municipalities, park and recreation districts, federal or State agencies, and private landholders to connect trails between incorporated and unincorporated regions of Butte County.

PUB-P8.2 The County shall coordinate with local jurisdictions, Lassen and Plumas National Forests, the Department of Water Resources, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Department of Fish and Wildlife to designate additional shared use (motorized and non- motorized) trails within the boundaries of all public lands and along unpaved County roads, access roads and fire roads.

PUB-P8.3 The development of abandoned railroad rights-of-way, levee tops, utility easements and waterways for new multi-use trails shall be pursued where appropriate.

PUB-P8.4 The County supports restoration and development of historic and "legacy" trails, and development of additional equestrian, hiking, and biking trails, including safe routes along roads.

PUB-P8.5 The County supports both existing use and the development of additional off-road vehicle trails through private and public lands.

PUB-P8.6 The County supports acquisition by public and private entities of appropriate and adequate funding for the creation and improvement of trails. Grant funding in collaboration with non-profit and volunteer organizations is encouraged.

PUB-P8.7 New development projects should incorporate multi-use trails and connections to existing trail networks.

Actions

PUB-A8.1 Coordinate with State, federal, and recreation districts to seek funding to publish Butte County trail maps for the public. Consider the use of mobile web-based applications and websites.

PUB-A8.2 Cooperate with appropriate agencies to conduct a countywide trails planning study to identify new needed routes and connections to the trails network, as well as to address funding and management of trail facilities.

VII. SOLID WASTE AND WASTE DIVERSION

A. Background Information

Existing solid waste management facilities in Butte County consist of two transfer stations, a large transfer station/materials recovery facility, the Neal Road Recycling and Waste Facility (Neal Road Facility) (and adjacent septage waste disposal area), one private wood waste recycler and two municipal wood waste recyclers.

The Neal Road Recycling and Waste Facility is located 7 miles southeast of Chico, on 190 acres owned by Butte County. The County Public Works Department assumed daily operational responsibility of the Neal Road Facility in 2003. The Neal Road Facility is permitted to accept municipal solid waste, inert industrial waste, demolition materials, special wastes containing non-friable asbestos and septage. Current projections suggest that the Neal Road Facility has capacity to last through 2034, based upon current waste volumes, and the County is undertaking efforts to investigate the possible expansion of the facility to serve future capacity needs. Hazardous wastes, including friable asbestos, are not accepted at the Neal Road Facility or any other Butte County disposal facility, and must be transported to a Class I landfill permitted to receive untreated hazardous waste.



Neal Road Recycling and Waste Facility. Photo courtesy of the Butte County Department of Development Services.

The Solid Waste Management Facility Overlay, which is described in the Land Use Element, is applied to the Neal Road Facility and its surrounding area. This Overlay permits uses that are accessory and/or related to solid waste and/or septage disposal, as well as uses that are compatible with landfill operations.

Waste diversion programs, such as recycling, reuse and composting, are designed to reduce the environmental impacts and improve the economic efficiency of waste management operations. Recycling, an essential practice for diverting solid waste from landfills, is a fundamental part of the Butte County integrated waste management plan. Existing recycling activities and programs are overseen and operated by the County at the Neal Road Facility and by the private sector at other locations. There is one permitted regional composting facility in Butte County, as well as a number of smaller, privately operated facilities. In addition, the Pacific Oroville Power, Inc. (POPI) plant, located in Oroville, is a biomass conversion facility that burns wood waste through the direct combustion process to generate electricity. The electricity is sold to PG&E. It is the only cogeneration plant in the county. A landfill gas-to-energy project could be in operation at the Neal Road Recycling and Waste Facility in 2011.

B. Goals, Policies and Actions

Goal PUB-9 **Provide safe, sanitary and environmentally acceptable solid waste management.**

Policies

PUB-P9.1 Butte County residents, businesses and industries shall be encouraged to reduce the use of non-biodegradable and non- recyclable materials, including reduced use of packaging and use of reusable, rather then disposable, products.

PUB-P9.2 Technologies that benefit Butte County and that allow the use of solid waste as an alternative energy source, including biomass or biofuels, shall be promoted.

PUB-P9.3 Innovative strategies shall be employed to ensure efficient and cost-effective solid waste and other discarded materials collection, disposal, transfer and processing.

PUB-P9.4 Waste materials shall be considered as potential revenue sources for the County, and the County shall seek to maximize the revenue potential associated with the waste stream as new products, economies, needs and technologies emerge.

PUB-P9.5 The Neal Road Recycling and Waste Facility should prioritize disposal and processing capacity for waste materials generated within Butte County, but accept waste materials from outside the county when capacity is available and the rates cover the full cost of disposal and processing.

Actions

PUB-A9.1 Continue to review and update the Recycling and Waste Facility Plan as needed, to ensure that there is adequate space to meet projected growth.

PUB-A9.2 Continue to distribute public education materials on solid waste source reduction, recycling and composting, and the proper handling of household hazardous waste.

Goal PUB-10 **Increase opportunities for safe recycling of electronic waste (e-waste) and hazardous waste by residents and businesses in Butte County.**

Policies

PUB-P10.1 The County supports the continued operation of household and business hazardous material waste drop-off facilities.

PUB-P10.2 The County supports the continued operation of the existing public education program on the importance of disposing of household and business wastes at appropriate collection sites.

Goal PUB-11 **Increase recycling among Butte County residents, businesses and public agencies.**

Policies

PUB-P11.1 The County shall meet or exceed State waste diversion requirements.

PUB-P11.2 Construction sites shall provide for the salvage, reuse, or recycling of construction and demolition materials.

PUB-P11.3 Public buildings shall be designed or improved with on-site storage facilities for recycled materials.

PUB-P11.4 The County shall use post-consumer recycled paper and other recycled materials for County operations whenever possible.

PUB-P11.5 The County supports private and public composting facilities.

Actions

PUB-A11.1 Continue to implement and expand the County's action program to achieve more aggressive recycling goals, including recycling of construction materials.

VIII. WASTEWATER

A. Background Information

There are three different methods of wastewater treatment and disposal currently used in Butte County: municipal wastewater treatment plants, non-municipal wastewater systems and individual on-site wastewater disposal systems, which are generally referred to as septic systems. Larger urban areas require the organization and treatment capabilities provided by a municipal wastewater facility, whereas rural areas in the county employ individual on-site systems. Clustered communities in rural Butte County sometimes take advantage of economies of scale and provide more effective wastewater service by organizing non-municipal wastewater systems.

The five active municipal wastewater treatment plants in Butte County are:

- City of Biggs
- City of Chico
- City of Gridley
- Richvale Sanitary District
- Sewerage Commission – Oroville Region (SC-OR), which serves the City of Oroville, Thermalito Water and Sewer District (TWS) and the Lake Oroville Area Public Utility District (LOAPUD)

There are currently six community service areas (CSAs) managing non-municipal wastewater systems in the county:

- CSA 21: Oakridge Sewer
- CSA 82: Stirling City Sewer
- CSA 94: Sycamore Valley Sewer
- CSA 135: Keefer Creek Estates
- CSA 141: Mountain Oaks Sewer
- CSA 169: Pheasant Landing

There are an estimated 50,000 on-site sewage disposal systems in Butte County, including unincorporated areas as well as cities and towns, serving approximately half of the County's population.[3] Approximately 25 percent of the septic systems are estimated to be located in Paradise.[4] Existing and new septic systems in the Chico area are strictly regulated by the Nitrate Compliance Plan adopted in 2001 to mitigate elevated levels of nitrates in groundwater in this area. In addition, Butte County is considering adopting an Individual On-Site Wastewater Ordinance regulating individual septic systems. The new ordinance would bring County regulations into consistency with the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board's Basin Plan and update the County's regulations to reflect current practices and technologies for on-site wastewater treatment and disposal.[5] Furthermore, as required by AB 885 (Section 13290 of the California Water Code), the State Water Resources Control Board is developing regulations for on-site wastewater treatment plans. The regulations will include system design and monitoring requirements specific to the project and location type.

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[3] Fogel, Doug. Program Manager, Environmental Health. Public Health Department, Butte County. Personal Communication with Lisa Katz, DC&E, July 3, 2007.

[4] Banner, Brad. Director, Environmental Health. Public Health Department, Butte County. Personal Communication with Jessica Daniels, DC&E, August 6, 2009.

[5] Butte County Public Health Department. Butte County Individual On-Site Wastewater Ordinance Initial Study, March 2, 2009, page 1.

B. Goals, Policies and Actions

Goal PUB-12 **Manage wastewater treatment facilities at every scale to protect the public health and safety of Butte County residents and the natural environment.**

Policies

PUB-P12.1 Applicants shall be allowed to make case-by-case assessments of septic and other wastewater treatment systems to determine appropriate system designs and densities and shall be allowed to utilize new technologies that are supported by State and County practices.

PUB-P12.2 On-site wastewater treatment and disposal systems in the Chico area shall continue to be regulated according to the requirements in the Nitrate Compliance Plan.

PUB-P12.3 New community sewerage systems shall be managed by a public County sanitation district or other County-approved methods. Proponents shall demonstrate the financial viability of constructing, operating and maintaining the proposed community sewerage system.*

PUB-P12.4 New sewer collection and transmission systems shall be designed and constructed to minimize potential inflow and infiltration.

Goal PUB-13 **Plan adequate wastewater infrastructure to serve new development.**

Policies

PUB-P13.1 The County shall encourage all plant operators to begin planning and implementing expansions to the existing Regional Wastewater Treatment Master Plan to meet future demand for wastewater treatment generated by this General Plan at least four years prior to reaching the capacity of existing facilities.

PUB-P13.2 New development projects shall demonstrate the availability of a safe, sanitary and environmentally sound wastewater system.

PUB-P13.3 For development projects that will rely on on-site wastewater systems, applicants shall provide detailed plans demonstrating that the system will be adequate to serve the project.

PUB-P13.4 Installation of sewer lines shall occur concurrently with construction of new roadways to maximize efficiency and minimize disturbance from construction activity.

13 AREA PLANS ELEMENT

I. DURHAM DAYTON NELSON PLAN

A. Goals, Policies and Actions

Goal D2N-1 **Provide a circulation and transportation system coordinated with land use to ensure streets and roads are safe, efficient and enhance the Planning Area's overall design and appearance.**

Objectives

D2N-P1.15 Maintain highways and roads, with appropriate street patterns and designs.

a. Establish and design the street system to reflect more effectively the classification concept (arterial, collector, local) and the desired land use objectives of the community.

b. The circulation system should support the collective mobility goals of the residents of the Planning Area as identified in the Butte County Regional Transportation Plan.

Policies

D2N-P1.16 Design local residential streets for access to properties and for discouraging through, non-local traffic.

D2N-P1.17 Utilize effective traffic control devices which would regulate flow, provide adequate turning movements and promote pedestrian and bicycle safety.

D2N-P1.18 Develop subdivision street design strategies aimed at mitigating traffic hazards.

D2N-P1.19 Minimize conflicts between vehicular, pedestrian and bicycle traffic.

D2N-P1.20 Restrict residential development from locating adjacent to streets carrying or expected to carry 10,000 vehicles per day because of adverse noise levels.

D2N-P1.21 Seek means to restrict the routes for hazardous toxic materials and fuel trucks by restricting routes that go through populated areas.

D2N-P1.22 Require traffic studies on any residential development which will have significant impacts on transportation to evaluate the placement of traffic control devices.

D2N-P1.23 Where possible, new development shall plan arterial roadways on all section lines and collector roadways on all half-section lines to provide for efficient circulation.

D2N-P1.24 An east-west interlink between Durham-Dayton Highway and the Midway shall be adopted prior to any subdivision approvals for property located north of the school, In addition, a north- south route shall be considered as part of the circulation system to the area north of the school.

Objectives

D2N-O1.2 Bicycle and pedestrian safety.

a. Provide policies and programs to ensure safer conditions for the bicyclist and pedestrian.

b. Promote and encourage bicycling for reasons of ecology, health, economy and enjoyment.

Policies

D2N-P1.10 Develop a community-wide bicycle and pedestrian plan in accordance with the Transportation Development Act.

D2N-P1.11 Encourage new residential subdivisions to implement bicycle and pedestrian facilities in the subdivision design.

D2N-P1.12 Conduct traffic safety studies in connection with residential development, and identify pedestrian/traffic conflicts.

Objective

D2N-O1.3 Aviation and railroad service.

a. Ensure the viability of private air strips within the area for their importance to agriculture.

b. Ensure that rail service continues to be provided through the Planning Area, and that rail facilities are utilized for the best interest of the public.

Policies

D2N-P1.13 Refer all developments which may impact upon any agricultural aviation operation to the Butte County Airport Land Use Commission for review.

D2N-P1.14 Develop policies to address the needs and problems related to agricultural aircraft operation, particularly as they relate to the use and disposal of hazardous chemical material.

D2N-P1.15 Through the Butte County Airport Land Use Commission, develop comprehensive land use recommendations to reduce potential conflicts between desired land uses and agricultural aviation activity.

D2N-P1.16 Recognize the importance of privately-owned restricted-use airstrips to the agricultural needs of the county.

D2N-P1.17 Promote quality rail service while, at the same time, offering competitive intramodal rates to the shipping public.

D2N-P1.18 Improve rail grade crossings that have deteriorated to an unacceptable level.

D2N-P1.19 Locate noise-sensitive uses a sufficient distance from railroads or provide appropriate mitigation measures to avoid adverse effects from trains passing through the Planning Area.

Objective

D2N-O1.4 Public transit.

a. Provide public transportation to that segment of the population within the community which is transit dependent, and continue to support public transit for area residents.

Policies

D2N-P1.20 Require new subdivisions to incorporate transit design characteristics in street designs.

D2N-P1.21 Require large subdivisions to provide a transportation system management plan which incorporates public transit as an element.

D2N-P1.22 Develop low-cost methods of providing transportation to as many transit-dependent persons as possible.

D2N-P1.23 Develop programs to help increase the farebox return of the transit system.

Goal D2N-2 **Provide affordable and adequate housing within the community to ensure the physical health, mental health, privacy and security of Planning Area residents.**

Objective

D2N-P2.15 Housing supply.

a. Ensure an adequate supply of housing to meet the needs of all segments of the Planning Area.

Policies

D2N-P2.16 Establish policies to regulate, subsidize and service housing within the Planning Area.

D2N-P2.17 Prepare a HOUSING ELEMENT for Butte County and revise and update every 5 years in accordance with State law.

D2N-P2.18 Provide an adequate amount of affordable multiple- family housing.

D2N-P2.19 Extend public services to vacant areas ready for new housing starts by forming improvement districts.

Objective

D2N-O2.2 Housing standards.

a. Ensure that housing for all segments of the community is safe, sanitary and of the highest possible quality.

Policies

D2N-P2.5 Encourage the upgrading of existing dwelling units which require rehabilitation to meet current standards of the Uniform Building Code.

D2N-P2.6 Seek means and funds to improve the condition of dwellings found to be dilapidated or in deteriorating condition.

D2N-P2.7 Evoke the power of condemnation and nuisance abatement for the eradication of dilapidated dwellings deemed no longer safe or sanitary.

Goal D2N-3 **Improve overall air quality within the Planning Area and Butte County.**

Objective

D2N-P3.15 Regulation for clean air.

a. Ensure development proposals adhere to the requirements of the Butte County Air Quality Management District.

Policies

D2N-P3.16 Encourage clean industries to locate within the Planning Area to minimize stationary source air pollution.

D2N-P3.17 Require air pollution estimations be made on projects as recommended by the Butte County Air Quality Management District in the latest revision of the CEQA Air Quality Handbook.

Goal D2N-4 **Locate, extend and phase community facilities and services to provide for orderly development and economical utilization of resources. Ensure that growth is orderly and does not result in a significant burden to existing levels of public services and facilities.**

Objective

D2N-P4.15 Provide public services.

a. Encourage a rate of growth which does not exceed the county's ability to provide necessary public services or the ability of the local economy to support such growth.

Policies

D2N-P4.16 Encourage industrial, agricultural and commercial uses which provide tax revenues to help support planned residential growth.

D2N-P4.17 Monitor various factors relating to the area's growth rate and provision of public services, including an inventory of land reserves and the costs and revenues associated with new development.

D2N-P4.18 Develop a program of growth phasing, wherein only those lands which are adjacent to existing urban densities and have public facilities and services available will be able to develop at urban densities and standards.

D2N-P4.19 Foster a compact rather than a scattered development pattern in order to discourage urban sprawl to reduce the extend and cost of public services, arid to preserve open space within the Planning Area.

D2N-P4.20 Ensure the ongoing operation and funding of the Durham Fire Station and library services provided by the County.

D2N-P4.21 Coordinate growth with the ability of the Durham Unified School District's to service and provide facilities.

D2N-P4.22 Review the option of package treatment plants or sanitary sewer systems for the communities of Durham, Dayton and Nelson.

D2N-P4.23 Expand the recreational opportunities of the Planning Area.

D2N-P4.24 Develop policies for park sitting and dedication within the Planning Area.

D2N-P4.25 Improve overall police protection by seeking resident deputies and/or reserve deputies and a future substation within the Planning Area.

Objective

D2N-O4.2 Utilization of resources.

a. Plan the population growth within the Planning Area to a level consistent with retaining a rural community lifestyle and recognizing environmental constraints.

b. Support the continued viability of agricultural production as the major source of income, employment and economic viability of the Planning Area.

Policies

D2N-P4.11 Improve linkages among organizations to address the defined needs of the Planning Area.

D2N-P4.12 Review all development projects to ensure that they promote the responsible use and stewardship of the natural resources to preserve the quality of rural life.

D2N-P4.13 Plan, finance and develop facilities and services in the Planning Area that contribute to making this area a desirable place in which to live and make private and business investments.

Goal D2N-5 **Protect and maintain areas of native vegetation which include riparian forest, valley freshwater marsh, valley oak woodland, vernal pools, annual grasslands and designated natural areas. Such areas deserve protection as part of the heritage of the communities, for the way such areas add to the aesthetic environment, and as important examples of the diversity of habitats and the wildlife they support within the Planning Area and the State.**

Objective

D2N-O5.1 Protection of natural habitats.

a. Protect confirmed locations of sensitive plants and animals.

Policies

PUB-P5.1 Review all projects in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act to ensure no plant or animal species is endangered by the proposed development

PUB-P5.2 Encourage groups interested in the preservation of wildlife and plants to purchase the development rights to sensitive areas.

PUB-P5.3 Encourage the coordination with other community groups, governmental organization and private interests to avoid duplication of effort and, encourage innovation.

Goal D2N-6 **Utilize and develop natural resources so as to protect those resources and eliminate exposure of persons and property to environmental hazards.**

Objective

D2N-P6.15 Management of mineral resources.

a. Efficiently utilize mineral resources and ensure their continued supply.

Policies

D2N-P6.16 Encourage proper development and management of sand and gravel.

D2N-P6.17 Ensure that all commercial development of sand and gravel deposits is compatible with nearby land uses.

D2N-P6.18 Ensure that extraction operations of sand and gravel adhere to all environmental quality regulations of the County and State.

D2N-P6.19 Locate commercial, industrial, open space and agricultural uses adjacent to prime mineral resource areas to avoid conflicts between mineral production activities and present or planned residential and institutional land uses.

Objectives

D2N-O6.2 Protection of soil resources.

To eliminate potential for soil erosion or degradation of its agricultural productivity.

Policies

D2N-P6.5 Require standard erosion-control measures and construction practices to minimize soil erosion.

D2N-P6.6 Protect agricultural lands which currently produce, or have the potential to produce, from encroaching urban uses.

Objectives

D2N-O6.3 Protection of water resources.

a. Utilize surface water resources for multiple uses such as recreation, farming and industry.

b. Preserve the quality of all water resources through control of the intensity of use, the density of population and the type and amount of development.

Policies

D2N-P6.7 Identify and protect groundwater recharge areas within and outside of the Planning Area to assure adequate groundwater supplies meeting the standards of the California Safe Drinking Water Act.

D2N-P6.8 Require subdivisions adjacent to existing water systems to connect to them.

Objective

D2N-O6.4 Manage natural gas resources.

Ensure the safe and efficient extraction and use of the area's natural energy resources.

Policies

D2N-P6.9 Identify all natural gas resources and prepare an energy, natural resources and recreation element of the Butte County General Plan.

D2N-P6.10 Locate open space and agricultural land uses surrounding production areas to reduce incompatible land uses.

D2N-P6.11 Promote the exploration and production of natural gas.

Goal D2N-7 **Utilize and develop natural resources so as to protect those resources and eliminate exposure of persons and property to environmental hazards.**

Objective

D2N-P7.15 Avoid geologic hazards.

a. Regulate the spatial relationships of land uses to reflect the geologic hazards of the area.

Policies

D2N-P7.16 Identify areas subject to seismic activity and its secondary effects.

D2N-P7.17 Require all new buildings comply with the provisions of the Uniform Building Code for seismically active areas.

D2N-P7.18 Identify the appropriate use of lands subject to erosion, subsidence, expansion of soils and other geologic hazards or characteristics.

D2N-P7.19 Designate for open space land uses those areas with high erosion potential or soil instability which cannot be mitigated.

Objective

D2N-O7.2 Avoid hydrologic hazards.

a. Promote urban development outside of existing floodplain, and contain the floodplain within their current boundaries.

Policies

D2N-P7.5 Protect the capacity of floodplain and prevent flood damage and associated public relief expenditures created by construction of residential structures in the floodplain.

D2N-P7.6 Identify areas subject to localized ponding and lacking adequate drainage facilities.

D2N-P7.7 Require correction of local stormwater ponding conditions prior to development in such areas, either through off-site improvements provided by land developers, or through community storm drain facility capital improvements projects.

Goal D2N-8 **Ensure that the area's growth is in accordance with the desires and needs of the community, that future developments are safer and healthier as human habitats, more resilient to deteriorating forces and more consistent or harmonious with natural processes.**

Objective

D2N-O.1 Manage existing and future land use.

a. Promote a growth rate which reflects a well-planned and controlled expansion of the area.

Policies

D2N-P8.1 Concentrate future residential uses within or near the existing developed communities.

D2N-P8.2 Control the direction and amount of growth through the planning and regulation of public facilities.

D2N-P8.3 Establish appropriate growth guidelines which will achieve a balance and relationship between urban expansion and the natural environment.

D2N-P8.4 Provide for community shopping needs by providing for a full range or retail commercial services desired by the community.

D2N-P8.5 Provide for industrial uses in locations and at a level of use compatible with adjacent uses, recognizing the rural nature of the Planning Area.

D2N-P8.6 Provide for public and quasi-public uses near residential and commercial areas.

D2N-P8.7 Encourage and maintain agriculture as the predominant land use of the Planning Area.

D2N-P8.8 Promote citizen participation in planning by establishing and forming planning committees, special-purpose planning groups and other outreach programs.

D2N-P8.9 Review boundaries of Planning Area and revise, as necessary, to include lands which reflect community identities, and exclude lands outside community boundaries and for which land use plans have recently been adopted.

D2N-P8.10 Support the adopted Greenline and policies for the areas located within the Chico Urban Area north of the Durham Unified School District boundary.

D2N-P8.11 Provide a separation between the Chico Urban Area and the northerly boundaries of the communities of Durham and Dayton by recognizing the Durham Unified School District boundary as a line of demarcation.

D2N-P8.12 Adopt an urban boundary surrounding Durham-Dayton-Nelson to require infrastructure improvements that meet the urban standards as established by the Butte County Public Works Department.

D2N-P8.13 All General Plan Amendments which allow densities of less than 1 acre per dwelling unit shall be incorporated into the urban boundaries.

D2N-P8.14 The Planning Department shall develop General Industrial (GI) development or performance standards that include greater setbacks, landscape buffers and standards, screening, architectural enhancements and review procedures within six months of approval of the D2N Plan or prior to the development of any GI zoned lands.

D2N-P8.15 Existing Industrial uses that have been rezoned to commercial designations may continue as pre-existing non-conforming uses. However, whenever a use change is industrial in nature, a Use Permit shall be required to determine the appropriateness and public safety issues that may occur Public notice in a paper and posting in Durham shall be required.

Goal D2N-9 **Maintain and preserve for future generations the Planning Area's historical and cultural resources and pioneer heritage.**

Objective

D2N-P9.15 Preserve historic and cultural resources.

a. Establish strict public policy for the preservation of historical, archaeological and cultural resources that will safeguard the heritage of the past to provide the community a cultural foundation for measuring change.

Policies

D2N-P9.16 Seek historic designation for locally significant sites and structures in cooperation with local groups and residents.

D2N-P9.17 Protect the archaeological resources within the area and provide for the appropriate reconnaissance and/or preservation of these significant resources.

D2N-P9.18 Promote the use of historical properties, sites and districts for the education and recreation of the citizens of the County.

D2N-P9.19 Provide for the protection of visually appealing features of the community that enhance the residents' perception of the local environment and evoke community pride.

B. Durham – Dayton – Nelson Planning Area Urban Reserve Policy

Due to the planning and development interrelationships involved with the D2N Area and the balancing of competing land uses such as agricultural versus residential, that General Plan Amendments, rezones, subdivision approvals and subsequent urban development must include additional criteria of development. In addition, consideration of various elements of the county's policies, plans and standards must occur to ensure proper development of the area. It is to this end that urban reserve policies have been recommended. The plans and policies that are necessary in this context are the following:

- A water plan for the area which establishes the service area and the size, standards, location and phasing of treatment facilities and lines to service the area. This plan should be based on the desired land pattern for future growth, the costs of initial service and the continued operation costs to the south Durham-Dayton-Nelson area.
- A park and open space plan that identifies locations and standards for park and recreation areas to serve future growth, and natural open space areas that are to be preserved.
- An environmental plan that identifies critical areas that should be protected from development if applicable.
- A street and transportation plan that indicates the location, capacity and nature of the system and off-site transportation impacts.
- Health department standards for control of septic systems and water wells. Areas where wells and septic systems are not permissible should be identified.
- A fiscal plan that identifies the proportion of costs of public facilities and services that is to be reimbursed from new subdivisions.
- A capital improvements plan/program that indicates where and when physical improvements are to be made.
- The size of these improvements, and how they will be financed.

All of the above items are elements of the planning process which should be required by the county of any given General Plan Amendment, rezone, or subdivision proposal in the D2N area to create a coherent community development. Such a requirement would prevent the marginal developments from occurring which cause conflicts between the residential and agricultural land uses of the area. Currently, many subdivisions in the D2N area occur at the 1-plus-acre size to circumvent the county subdivision ordinance which requires paved roads, curbs, gutters and sidewalks for developments of less than 1 acre. Setting higher standards for development would also prevent premature developments from taking place and preserving the ag-lands until such time the market place can support urban residential development property, Therefore, the following policies shall apply to the entire Planning Area.

1. D2N Urban Reserve Policy Statement

- The County's land use policy, zoning and subdivision regulations shall be coordinated with the Urban Reserve policies and regulations; and

- All property located in the planning area shall be managed as an "URBAN RESERVE," not permitting rural residential development and uses on parcels less than 3 acres until such time as they are needed for development and adequate services are available to serve this area; and
- Any proposal for a General Plan Amendment, rezoning or subdivision which would permit parcels of less than 3 acres to be created for residential use shall be coordinated with all public agencies which provide utility and public services for extension of water, sewer, circulation, drainage and shall be required to submit the following plans prior to or concurrently with the adoption:
  - A capital improvement plan/program that indicates where and when physical improvements are to be made, the size of these improvements, standards, phasing of treatment facilities and lines to service the area, and how they will be financed. This plan should be based on the desired land pattern for future growth, the costs of initial service, and the continued operation costs to the designated area.
  - A park and open space plan that identifies locations and standards for park and recreation areas to serve future growth, and natural open space areas that are to be preserved.
  - An environmental plan that identifies critical areas that should be protected from development if applicable.
  - A street and transportation plan that indicates the location, capacity and nature of the system and off-site transportation impacts.
  - Health department standards for control of septic systems, and water wells. Areas where wells and septic systems are not permissible should be identified.
  - A fiscal plan that identifies the proportion of costs of public facilities and services that is to be reimbursed from new subdivisions.
- Any parcel which is now less than 20 acres which was legally created, preexisting and non-conforming may be developed according to its zoning and the provisions of Butte County Code Section 24-35.
- Development standards of the County utilized in other urban areas for developments less than 1 acre shall be utilized for all residential development projects within the Urban Reserve Area.
- The following policy applies only to the properties described: All Very Low Density Residential zoned properties that are located (immediately) north, south and west of the Durham School can be considered for higher density (Low Density Residential standards) development once the above mentioned services are adequately addressed. The County shall support density transfers within this area to encourage more cost effective and efficient developments as an interim measure until items such as regional sewage disposal can be addressed. The remaining lands in such a proposal would have planned roads and lot sizes, but shall remain undeveloped and/or in agricultural production until a sewer system is established. Appropriate on-site sewage disposal standards shall be the ultimate determining factor of the actual developed densities.

14 ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ELEMENT

Throughout the history of our country, low-income residents, communities of color, indigenous peoples and tribal nations, and immigrant communities have disproportionately experienced the greatest environmental burdens and related health problems. This inequity stems from many historical factors, including: inappropriate zoning and negligent land use planning, failure to enforce proper zoning or conduct regular inspections, deed restrictions and other discriminatory housing and lending practices, limited political and economic power among certain demographics, the prioritization of business interests over public health, development patterns that tend to concentrate pollution and environmental hazards in certain communities, and the placement of economic and environmental benefits in more affluent areas.

The combination of a lack of economic resources and a history of unjust policy making means that these communities often continue to face significant barriers to overall health, livelihood, and sustainability. Butte County calls these communities “Communities of Opportunity” (COO). COO often have limited access to the health- promoting benefits of healthy communities, and instead experience a greater share of health-harming burdens. Correcting this social and economic inequity is called “environmental justice.” Those who suffer from this inequity can experience:

- Only having the option to rent or buy homes that are next to incompatible or unhealthy uses, like warehouses, industrial sites, freeways, or waste management facilities.
- Being unable to access high-quality and well-maintained public services or amenities, such as schools, parks, libraries, or community centers, because the quality of these public amenities is often determined by the property values of homes, and property values of homes near incompatible or unhealthy uses are often lower than in areas without such uses.
- Not being considered or not having decision-making power during the review of projects and proposals that could lead to even greater health-harming burdens in the neighborhood.

Changes to the physical realm in which we live, work, learn, and play can help to address these barriers by reducing exposure to pollution, improving public facilities and housing, expanding access to healthy food and physical activity, and engaging community members in the decision-making process. As required by State law and in response to community input, this Environmental Justice Element addresses the needs of COOs through goals, policies, and actions that work to:

- Reduce the unique or compounded health risks in COOs by reducing pollution exposure and promoting public improvements, public services, community amenities, and access to food, safe and sanitary homes, and physical activity.
- Promote civil engagement in the public decision-making process.
- Prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of COOs.

The Environmental Justice Element is divided into two sections:

- **Background Information.** Provides additional information about environmental justice, including a review of legislative requirements to address environmental justice in general plan documents. In addition, this section summarizes outreach conducted to support identification of COOs and issues faced by these communities. Finally, this section provides a summary of how COOs were identified and summarizes an analysis of existing conditions related to health and environmental justice outcomes.
- **Goals, Policies, and Actions.** Addresses the needs of COOs in all areas required by State law—access to physical activity, transportation and transit, healthy food, safe and sanitary homes, and public facilities and services; air quality and pollution exposure; and community engagement.

A. Background Information

California Senate Bill (SB) 1000, the Planning for Healthy Communities Act, passed in 2016. The law requires that general plans address environmental justice in "disadvantaged communities," which are called "Communities of Opportunity" or "COOs" in this general plan. COOs are defined as low-income areas that are disproportionately affected by environmental pollution and other hazards that can lead to negative health effects, exposure, or environmental degradation.

"Environmental justice" is defined in California law as the fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and incomes with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. California law further states that environmental justice includes, but is not limited to:

- The availability of a healthy environment for all people.
- The deterrence, reduction, and elimination of pollution burdens for COOs so that the effects of pollution are not disproportionately borne by those communities.
- Governmental entities engaging and providing technical assistance to COOs to promote their meaningful participation in all phases of the environmental and land use decision-making process.
- At a minimum, the meaningful consideration of recommendations from COOs into environmental and land-use decisions.

1. Community Engagement on Environmental Justice

As part of the General Plan 2040 Update, Butte County conducted a series of outreach events and activities dedicated to environmental justice. Outreach was designed to first identify Communities of Opportunity and then engage with these communities to inform general plan strategies that address the environmental burdens they face. Following is a summary of major outreach activities:

- **Environmental Justice Stakeholder Meeting, Summer 2021**

  Summary: Gathered representatives from community- and faith-based organizations to gain insights on the locations of COOs and environmental justice issues in the county.

  Key Findings: Participants agreed that the COO designation should be expanded beyond the CalEnviroScreen definition (described in Section A.2 of this chapter), and that impacts from disasters, including wildfire and dam failure, need consideration from an environmental justice perspective.

- **Environmental Justice Policy Options Community Workshop Series and Community Survey, Fall 2021**

  Summary: In a two-part meeting series and accompanying web-based survey, community members and stakeholders provided feedback on a set of initial policy options designed to address environmental justice issues identified in the summer stakeholder workshop.

  Key Findings: Workshop participants and survey respondents generally supported all proposed policy options and offered additional policy recommendations.

- **Environmental Justice Communities Outreach, Winter 2021-2022**

  Summary: Following final identification of COOs, the County administered targeted outreach to identified communities, hosting booths and sharing paper and online surveys at community events and interviewing representatives of community-based and cultural organizations serving impacted communities.

  Key Findings: In addition to reiterating issues identified through previous outreach, respondents identified issues related to illegal dumping and sidewalk gaps that inhibit community members' safe access to active transportation and recreation opportunities.

Community feedback gathered through these outreach efforts informed the final identification of COOs, described in detail in Section A.2, and the goals, policies, and actions in Section B.

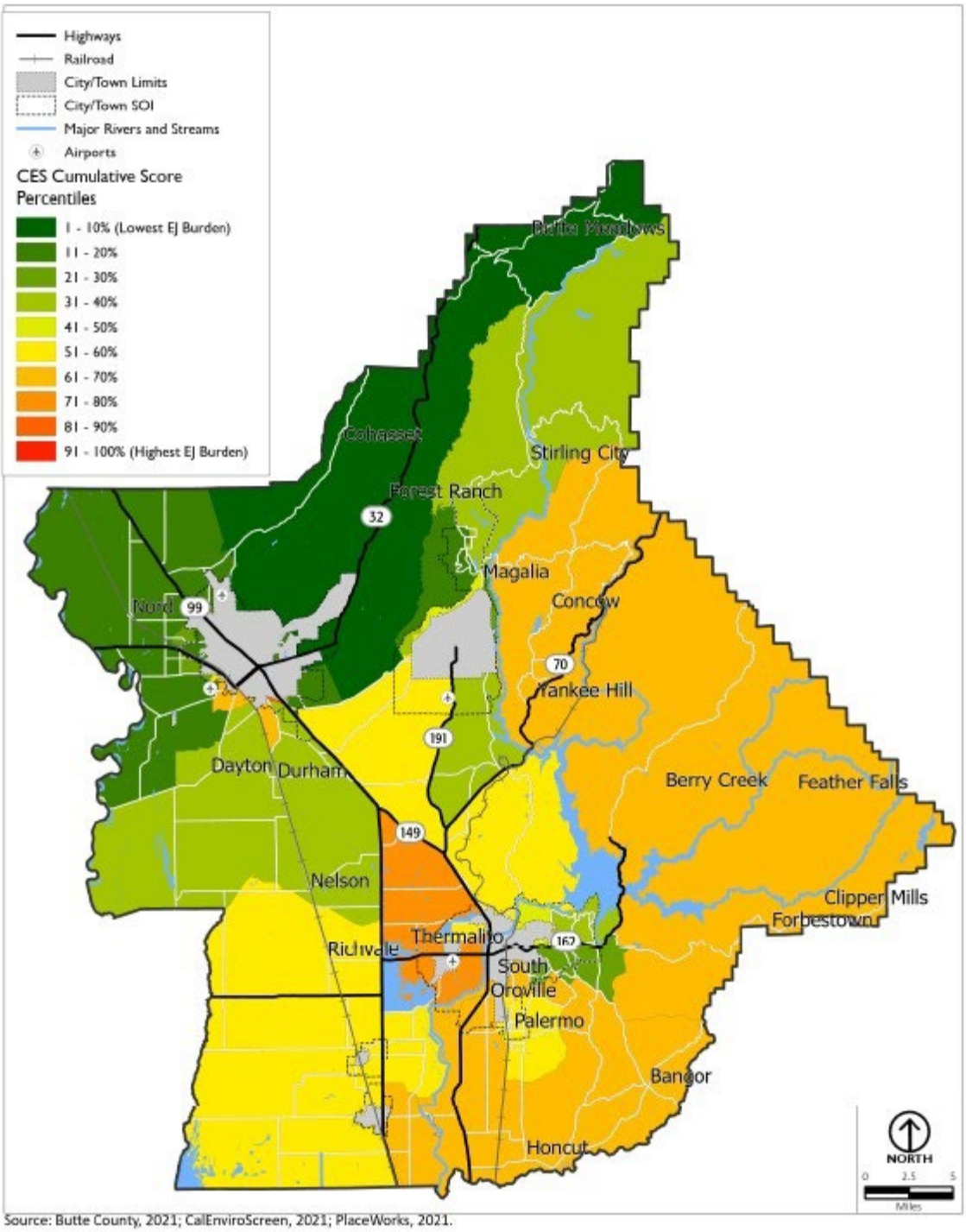
2. Communities of Opportunity Identification and Analysis

SB 1000 identifies Communities of Opportunity according to California Health and Safety Code Section 39711, specifying the screening tool CalEnviroScreen (CES) as the primary method for identifying COOs.

CES quantifies a range of factors related to pollution burden and population characteristics (e.g., poverty, educational attainment, and age) to derive a composite score for every census tract relative to the rest of the state. In general, the higher the score, the more impacted a community is. Census tracts in the highest quartile of scores (i.e., 75 to 100 percent) are considered COOs under SB 1000, although the law encourages local agencies to work with community members and stakeholders to refine the boundaries of these communities and identify additional communities, if appropriate, to support planning efforts that improve environmental justice. Figure EJ-1 shows CES 4.0 scores for Butte County census tracts.

FIGURE EJ-1 CALENVIROSCREEN SCORES

BUTTE COUNTY
GENERAL PLAN 2040
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ELEMENT



Source: Butte County, 2021; CalEnviroScreen, 2021; PlaceWorks, 2021.

FIGURE EJ-1
CALENVIROSCREEN SCORES

As shown in Figure EJ-1, CES 4.0 cumulative scores by census tract identify one unincorporated Butte County census tract as a Community of Opportunity: Thermalito.

However, based on input from Butte County community members, the criteria to identify COOs were expanded. As an initial step, Butte County looked at the scores of individual factors (e.g., pesticide exposure or relative unemployment; see Table EJ- 1 for the full list of factors) that comprise the CES 4.0 cumulative scores. Census tracts that had the most factors, scoring in the 75th percentile or above, were further considered for designation as COOs. The geographic boundaries were then refined based on population densities to establish perimeters for the COOs that encompass the places where people are concentrated. The resulting COOs boundaries are shown in Figure EJ-2 and represent the unincorporated urbanized parts of three census tracts in Palermo, South Oroville, and Thermalito, as described below.

- The Palermo Community of Opportunity includes the area roughly bounded by North Villa Avenue to the north, Upper Palermo Road/Palermo-Honcut Highway to the east, Railroad Avenue to the west, and South Villa Avenue to the south.
- The South Oroville Community of Opportunity includes the area roughly bounded by Ithaca Street to the north, Lower Wyandotte Road to the east, the Oroville city limit (roughly along Lincoln Street) to the west, and Ophir Road to the south.
- The Thermalito Community of Opportunity includes the area bounded roughly by Nelson Avenue to the north and California State Route 70 to the east, extending to the Thermalito South Forebay to the west and southward to the areas around Oro Dam Boulevard West.

As explained above, Thermalito was the first Community of Opportunity identified, following the State guidance to include communities that have cumulative CES scores of 75 percent or higher. The Thermalito Community of Opportunity scores in the 78th percentile of all California census tracts. Palermo's and South Oroville's cumulative CES scores are in the 54th and 68th percentiles, respectively. Table EJ-1 shows scores for each individual factor in the CES cumulative score for the three COOs. Table EJ-2 provides additional demographic information about these areas compared to the rest of the county and state.

FIGURE EJ-2 COMMUNITIES OF OPPORTUNITY

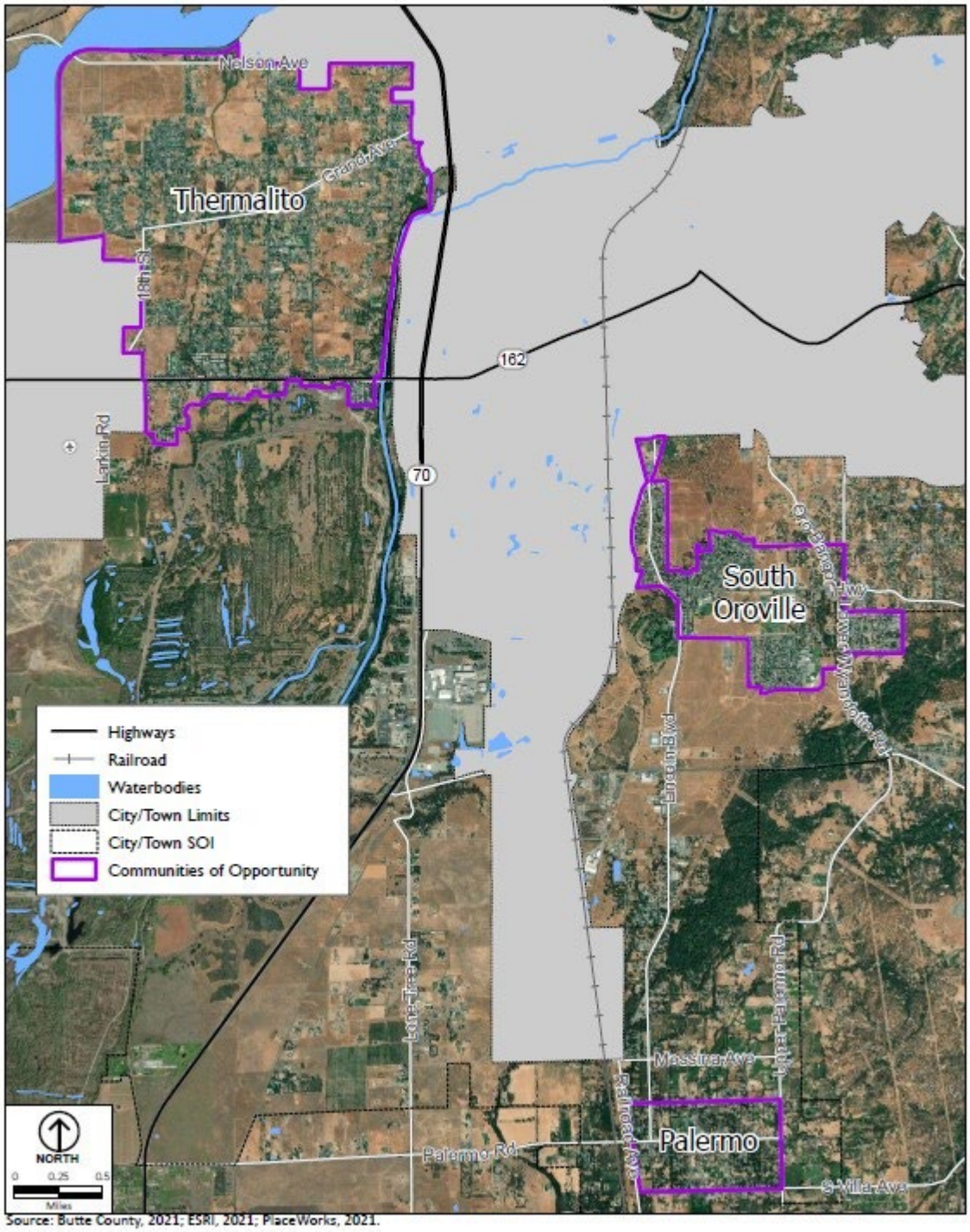


FIGURE EJ-2
COMMUNITIES OF OPPORTUNITY

TABLE EJ-1 CALENVIROSCREEN RANKINGS BY FACTOR			
CalEnviroScreen Factor	**Palermo**	**South Oroville**	**Thermalito**
Overall CalEnviroScreen Percentile (cumulative score based on all factors)	54%	68%	**78%**
Overall Pollution Burden Percentile (cumulative score based on the following factors)	27%	67%	53%
Air Quality: Ozone Concentration	68%	68%	67%
Air Quality: Fine Particle ($PM_{2.5}$) Concentration	12%	19%	18%
Diesel Particulate Matter Emissions	3%	24%	16%
Concentration of Drinking Water Contaminants	53%	39%	60%
Pesticide Use	60%	0%	**76%**
Concentration of Toxic Releases	6%	9%	10%
Traffic Density (Indicator of Vehicle Emissions)	2%	22%	16%
Concentration of Polluting Cleanup Sites	**85%**	**98%**	40%
Susceptibility to Groundwater Threats	55%	**90%**	0%
Density of Hazardous Waste Facilities	16%	65%	41%
Proximity to Polluted Water Bodies	0%	60%	74%
Proximity to Solid Waste Sites	2%	**80%**	63%
Children's Lead Risk from Housing	63%	61%	67%
Population Characteristics Percentile (cumulative score based on the following factors)	71%	61%	**89%**
Asthma-Induced Emergency Room Visits	53%	57%	69%
Heart Attack-Induced Emergency Room Visits	**84%**	**95%**	**97%**
Low Birth Weight Infants	17%	21%	**86%**
Population Without a High School Degree	**82%**	74%	**75%**
Housing Cost Burdened Low-Income Households	43%	19%	49%
Limited English-Speaking Households	59%	2%	38%
Households Living Below the Federal Poverty Line	**93%**	**89%**	**92%**
Relative Unemployment	**99%**	**81%**	**96%**

Cumulative scores and individual factors scoring in the 75th percentile and above are shown in **bold**.
Note: Community of Opportunity data are based on the entire census tract in which the community is located; refined data for the smaller geographic area that encompasses the Community of Opportunity are not available.
Source: CalEnviroScreen, 2021.

TABLE EJ-2 ADDITIONAL DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION					
Population Characteristic	California Average	Butte County Average	Palermo	South Oroville	Thermalito
Percentage of the population that are children under 10	13%	12%	18%	12%	13%
Percentage of the population that are over 65	12%	18%	20%	11%	16%
Median age	36.5	36.9	37.1	38.2	40.1
Percentage of the population identifying as something other than White alone*	73%	29%	46%	47%	37%
Median household income	$80,440	$62,563	$40,318	$41,377	$32,401
Average life expectancy	81.3	77.7	75.8	72.9	74.5

*Includes Hispanic/Latino of any race. Note: Community of Opportunity data are based on the entire census tract in which the community is located; refined data for the smaller geographic area that encompasses the Community of Opportunity are not available.

Sources: U.S. Census American Community Survey 5-year Estimates, 2019; CDC National Center for Health Statistics, 2020.

As shown in Table EJ-1, the individual factors that affect the COOs in Butte County mostly fall within the "population characteristics" category. These factors consider the health and vulnerability of the population living in the census tract, including factors that measure the percentage of the community who may be more severely affected by pollution because of their age or health as well as conditions that may increase people's stress or make healthy living difficult and cause them to be more sensitive to pollution's effects. Specifically, the Palermo, South Oroville, and Thermalito Census tracts all score above the 75th percentile for rates of cardiovascular disease, households living below the federal poverty line, and relative unemployment, which can make them more vulnerable to health impacts from pollution or a lack of access to services and infrastructure. These census tracts also have low rates of educational attainment compared to the rest of the state, and the Thermalito census tract has a high rate of low-birth-weight infants compared to the rest of the state. The "pollution burden" factors most affecting Butte County COOs are concentrations of polluting cleanup sites and solid waste sites, susceptibility to groundwater threats, and pesticide exposure.

As shown in Table EJ-2, life expectancies in these census tracts are lower than in the rest of Butte County and significantly lower than the statewide average. All three census tracts have higher proportions of the population identifying as something other than "White alone" compared to the Butte County average, but lower proportions than the statewide average.

The following subsections describe results from Tables EJ-1 and EJ-2 that are specific to each Community of Opportunity.

a. Palermo

The census tract encompassing the Palermo Community of Opportunity scores above the 75th percentile for the following factors:

- Concentration of cleanup sites (85th percentile)
- Heart-attack-induced emergency room visits (84th percentile)
- Population without a high school degree (82nd percentile)
- Households below the federal poverty line (93rd percentile)
- Relative unemployment (99th percentile)

Among the three COOs, Palermo has the greatest percentage of children under 10 and seniors over 65, accounting for 38 percent of the population when combined. It also has the highest relative unemployment of the three COOs (measured as the proportion of adults actively seeking work and unable to find work).

b. South Oroville

The census tract encompassing the South Oroville Community of Opportunity scores above the 75th percentile for the following factors:

- Concentration of cleanup sites (98th percentile)
- Susceptibility to groundwater threats (90th percentile)
- Proximity to solid waste sites (80th percentile)
- Heart-attack-induced emergency room visits (95th percentile)
- Households below the federal poverty line (80th percentile)
- Relative unemployment (81st percentile)

South Oroville's cumulative CES score is driven more by indicators related to nearby industrial and hazardous land uses than the other two COOs. South Oroville also has the highest proportion of residents identifying as some other race or ethnicity besides "White alone" out of the three COOs.

c. Thermalito

The census tract encompassing the Thermalito Community of Opportunity scores above the 75th percentile for the following factors:

- Pesticide use (76th percentile)
- Heart-attack-induced emergency room visits (97th percentile)
- Low birth weight infants (86th percentile)
- Population without a high school degree (75th percentile)
- Households below the federal poverty line (92nd percentile)
- Relative unemployment (96th percentile)

The high cumulative CES score in the Thermalito Community of Opportunity is most strongly driven by population characteristics like income and health, rather than pollution exposure. The median income for Thermalito is almost 25 percent lower than that of South Oroville and Palermo, and nearly 50 percent and 60 percent lower than median countywide and state incomes, respectively. Thermalito also has a significantly higher rate of infants born with low birth weights than either of the other two COOs.

B. Goals, Policies, and Actions

Note that policies related to environmental justice are also addressed in other sections of this General Plan, including:

- Community health in the HEALTH AND SAFETY ELEMENT.
- Hazard mitigation and disaster recovery in the HEALTH AND SAFETY ELEMENT.
- Infrastructure and services, including parks and recreation, in the Public Facilities and Services Element.
- Transportation facilities in the CIRCULATION ELEMENT.
- Access to housing in the HOUSING ELEMENT.
- Jobs and job training opportunities in the Economic Development Element.
- Air quality in the Conservation and Open Space Element.
- Water quality in the WATER RESOURCES ELEMENT.
- Community outreach and engagement in the Land Use Element.
- Tribal consultation in the CONSERVATION AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT.

Goal EJ-1 **Provide Communities of Opportunity with access to active recreation and public open space.**

Policies

EJ-P1.1 The County shall work with municipalities and park and recreation districts to convert public easements, such as utility corridors or unused rights-of-way, into parks and trails within and connecting to Communities of Opportunity.

EJ-P1.2 In coordination with park and recreation districts, the County shall work with Communities of Opportunity to understand and address barriers to accessing and utilizing existing recreation opportunities.

EJ-P1.3 Pedestrian and bicycle connections shall be provided to parks, green space, recreational facilities, trails, and natural environments for residents in Communities of Opportunity.

EJ-P1.4 The County shall prioritize Communities of Opportunity for funding for development or improvement of parks and recreational facilities and encourage park and recreation districts to do the same.

Actions

EJ-A1.1 Establish, where feasible and appropriate, special districts to develop recreational opportunities in Communities of Opportunity.

EJ-A1.2 Coordinate with park and recreation districts to prepare a parks and open space needs assessment for each Community of Opportunity, implementing improvements that address barriers to outdoor physical activity.

Goal EJ-2 **Provide Communities of Opportunity with access to active transportation and transit.**

Policies

EJ-P2.1 The County shall prioritize improvements to bikeways and sidewalks that are in Communities of Opportunity to make active transportation more accessible, user friendly, and safer in these communities.

EJ-P2.2 Where supported by the community, street lighting for public safety shall be provided, prioritizing implementation in Communities of Opportunity, particularly at parks, transit stops, bike and pedestrian paths, and along commercial corridors.

EJ-P2.3 The County shall encourage development in Communities of Opportunity that combines employment, housing, and services close to transit facilities.

EJ-P2.4 The County shall work with transit providers to expand the hours of transit operation, operational boundaries, convenience, and quality of transit services that connect Communities of Opportunity with educational and economic opportunities, medical services, and other needed goods and services.

EJ-P2.5 The County shall encourage transit providers to offer small or less frequent buses on routes with low passenger demand and connections between unincorporated and incorporated bus routes, with a focus on bridging service gaps in Communities of Opportunity.

EJ-P2.6 The County shall provide support to carpooling and vanpooling programs, particularly among Communities of Opportunity, such as by assisting with outreach and program facilitation.

Actions

EJ-A2.1 Seek opportunities to identify and construct multi-modal improvements in Communities of Opportunity.

Goal EJ-3 **Provide Communities of Opportunity with access to fresh, healthy, and affordable food.**

Policies

EJ-P3.1 The County shall increase access to fresh food in Communities of Opportunity by allowing and encouraging local food production, community gardens, cooperative farms, community-supported agriculture, farmers' markets, mobile farmers' markets, community food pantries, and community kitchens on vacant or underutilized lands, including County-owned land.

EJ-P3.2 New development projects within Communities of Opportunity should incorporate community gardens into the project design, as appropriate.

EJ-P3.3 The County shall encourage the development of grocery stores, neighborhood stores, and outdoor markets at transit-accessible locations in Communities of Opportunity, prioritizing bicycle and pedestrian access.

EJ-P3.4 County facilities that interface with the public in Communities of Opportunity should incorporate programs and amenities that improve the public's access to healthy food options.

Actions

EJ-A3.1 Work with existing food and health education programs to provide Communities of Opportunity with nutrition education that will foster healthy eating habits, like the University of California Cooperative Extension and California State University Chico's Center for Healthy Communities.

Goal EJ-4 **Provide Communities of Opportunity with access to health care, including mental health care.**

Policies

EJ-P4.1 The County shall seek funding and work with community-based organizations to expand community-health-related outreach, analysis, and implementation efforts in Communities of Opportunity.

EJ-P4.2 The County shall collaborate with nonprofit, community-based, and governmental agencies to attract medical clinics, behavioral health facilities, and pharmacies in areas that lack access to health care, prioritizing Communities of Opportunity.

Actions

EJ-A4.1 Collaborate with regional health service providers to identify creative solutions to make physical and mental health services accessible to remote communities and Communities of Opportunity.

Goal EJ-5 **Provide Communities of Opportunity with access to safe and sanitary housing.**

Policies

EJ-P5.1 Future improvements in Communities of Opportunity shall not result in a net loss of affordable housing or permanent displacement of residents.

EJ-P5.2 The County shall encourage and prioritize discretionary housing investments in Communities of Opportunity that also address environmental conditions such as high fire risk and pollution exposure.

EJ-P5.3 The County shall expand efforts to repair and rehabilitate substandard housing in Communities of Opportunity, including remediation of lead-based paint, mold, mildew, asbestos, and other contaminants.

EJ-P5.4 The County shall support efforts to retrofit existing housing units in Communities of Opportunity with improvements that reduce indoor air and noise pollution and improve energy efficiency.

Goal EJ-6 **Provide Communities of Opportunity with access to vital public services and infrastructure.**

Policies

EJ-P6.1 The County shall encourage new development on existing vacant and underutilized lots in Communities of Opportunity where public services and infrastructure are available.

EJ-P6.2 The County shall prioritize County infrastructure projects in Communities of Opportunity.

EJ-P6.3 The County shall collaborate with water service providers and private well owners to ensure continuity of water supplies and provide financial relief to households in Communities of Opportunity if prices rise in drought conditions.

EJ-P6.4 When feasible and appropriate, smart-city infrastructure, such as fiber- optic cables, shall be installed where roadwork, utilities undergrounding, or similar activities occur to support the

infrastructure needed for broadband service throughout the county, prioritizing Communities of Opportunity.

EJ-P6.5 All public services programming developed to support Communities of Opportunity shall be culturally and linguistically appropriate.

EJ-P6.6 The County shall prioritize cleanup of illegal dumping in Communities of Opportunity.

EJ-P6.7 The County shall support implementation of community cleanup days, particularly in Communities of Opportunity.

Actions

EJ-A6.1 Continue to explore public-private partnerships that will improve access to reliable, fast Internet and make digital resources available in Communities of Opportunity at affordable prices.

Goal EJ-7 **Provide Communities of Opportunity with access to educational and economic opportunities.**

Policies

EJ-P7.1 The County supports schools, training programs, and other institutions whose mission is to enhance local workforce skills, prioritizing residents in Communities of Opportunity.

EJ-P7.2 The County supports equitable and clean jobs that offer living wages across all industries, working in coordination with Communities of Opportunity, local workers, and major businesses and industries.

EJ-P7.3 The County supports the development of small-scale service/shopping centers providing a range of retail, public amenities, services, and related infrastructure that are transit accessible to Communities of Opportunity and that meet the requirements to obtain low-income housing tax credit funding.

EJ-P7.4 The County shall actively work across County departments and agencies to attract businesses that provide desired goods and services in Communities of Opportunity, including food stores with fresh produce, health care, childcare, pharmacies, and other essential retailers.

EJ-P7.5 The County shall promote entrepreneurship and locally owned businesses and enterprises in Communities of Opportunity to support economic self-sufficiency and stability.

EJ-P7.6 The County supports business retention, expansion, and attraction efforts that diversify and strengthen the local economy in Communities of Opportunity.

Actions

EJ-A7.1 Work with Communities of Opportunity to identify and remove land use or zoning barriers to business development that would increase access to vital goods and services in Communities of Opportunity.

EJ-A7.2 Develop a program to offer training and support to small businesses in Communities of Opportunity.

Goal EJ-8 **Improve air quality and increase the tree canopy in Communities of Opportunity to reduce health risks associated with air pollutants.**

Policies

EJ-P8.1 The County supports protection, restoration, and enhancement of natural landscapes in and near Communities of Opportunity for their role in improving air quality and community health.

EJ-P8.2 The County shall promote tree planting and encourage new projects to incorporate trees and green space in Communities of Opportunity to help shade and cool the community, while following best practices to maintain sight lines on roadways and avoiding exacerbating wildfire risks.

EJ-P8.3 The County supports the development of high-quality, local jobs within and near Communities of Opportunity to reduce long commutes and resultant vehicle emissions.

Actions

EJ-A8.1 Participate in emission and exposure reduction, public education, engagement, and outreach programs sponsored by Butte County Air Quality Management District (BCAQMD) and other activities that promote air quality, focusing on Communities of Opportunity.

Goal EJ-9 **Ensure Communities of Opportunity are safe from and free of unhealthy contaminants in water and soil.**

Policies

EJ-P9.1 The County shall encourage residential development in areas of Communities of Opportunity that are served by public water and sewer systems or areas with soil and groundwater conditions that can safely support development without exposing residents to contaminants.

EJ-P9.2 The County shall assist regulatory agencies in their efforts to monitor pollutant levels, establish thresholds, and identify funding and mitigation options, particularly for pollutants that are found in Communities of Opportunity.

EJ-P9.3 The County shall advocate for and coordinate with local and regional agencies in efforts to remediate or treat contaminated surface water, groundwater, or soils in or affecting Communities of Opportunity.

EJ-P9.4 The County shall encourage the use of integrated pest management strategies.

Goal EJ-10 **Effectively engage residents of Communities of Opportunity regarding decisions that may affect their community.**

Policies

EJ-P10.1 The County shall notify and engage community members, organizations, and leaders when County planning decisions are being considered in or adjacent to Communities of Opportunity. The County shall conduct outreach and engagement that is appropriate for and tailored to these communities, as follows:

- Provide outreach in the predominant language(s) spoken in the community, including the local Hmong and Latinx communities, and provide interpretation services at meetings as needed.

- Make public notices and other important documents easy to understand and available in print at local libraries, community centers, or other gathering places.
- Use a wide array of methods to inform community members of opportunities to participate, such as the County website, social media accounts, text messages, banners, mailers, and flyers.
- Schedule, format, and locate community workshops and meetings to be convenient for community members—both in- person and online—and provide resources to reduce barriers to participate, such as childcare, food, and financial incentives like bus passes.
- Use social media, virtual meeting platforms, recorded meetings, and other communication techniques for those without time or ability to attend public meetings.

EJ-P10.2 The County shall foster long-term and ongoing collaborative relationships with and between community leaders and stakeholders in Communities of Opportunity.

Actions

EJ-A10.1 Establish an ongoing environmental justice advisory group composed of community members from Communities of Opportunity and other stakeholders to advise and assist the County in addressing disproportionate health, safety, and welfare risks in Communities of Opportunity.

EJ-A10.2 Support, participate in, and coordinate efforts with existing organizations that provide services to and empower Communities of Opportunity.

EJ-A10.3 Reduce administrative barriers to providing County support to local organizations that serve Communities of Opportunity.

15 GLOSSARY

This glossary explains the technical terms used in the Butte County General Plan and common in the field of planning. Definitions come from several sources, including the California Office of Planning and Research and the American Planning Association Glossary of Zoning, Development and Planning Terms.

A. Abbreviations

AB:	Assembly Bill (State)
ADA:	Americans with Disabilities Act
ALUC:	Airport Land Use Commission (Butte County)
ALUCP:	Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan (Butte County)
BBWUA:	Butte Basin Water Users Association
BCAG:	Butte County Association of Governments
BCAQMD:	Butte County Air Quality Management District
BCFD:	Butte County Fire Department
BCOE:	Butte County Office of Education
BCSO:	Butte County Sheriff's Office
BCDWRC	Butte County Department of Water and Resource Conservation
BMO:	Basin management objectives
CAL FIRE:	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
CARB:	California Air Resources Board
CARD:	Chico Area Recreation and Park District
CEQA:	California Environmental Quality Act
CHP:	California Highway Patrol
CIP:	Capital Improvements Program
CNEL:	Community Noise Equivalent Level
CSA:	Community service area *or* community-supported agriculture
CVFPP:	Central Valley Flood Protection Plan
dB:	Decibel
dBA:	A-weighted sound level
DFG:	California Department of Fish and Game
DRPD:	Durham Recreation and Park District
DTSC:	Department of Toxic Substances Control (State)
du/acre:	Dwelling units per acre
du:	Dwelling units
DWR:	Department of Water Resources (State)
ECC:	Emergency Command Center (Butte County)
EIR:	Environmental Impact Report (State)
EMD:	Emergency Medical Dispatch
EOP:	Emergency Operations Plan

EPA:	Environmental Protection Agency (US)
FAR:	Floor Area Ratio
FEMA:	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FIRM:	Flood Insurance Rate Map
FMMP:	Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (State)
FRRPD:	Feather River Recreation and Park District
FMP:	Flood Mitigation Plan (Butte County)
GHG:	Greenhouse gas
HCM:	Highway Capacity Manual
HCP/NCCP:	Butte Regional Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP)
IWRP	Integrated Water Resources Plan
LAFCO:	Local Agency Formation Commission
L_{dn}:	Day/Night Average Sound Level
LEED:	Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design
L_{eq}:	Equivalent Sound Level
LHMP	Local Hazard Mitigation Plan
LID:	Low Impact Development
LOAPUD:	Lake Oroville Area Public Utilities District
LOS:	Level of Service
MOAs:	Military Operations Areas
MOU: MRZ:	Memorandum of Understanding Mineral Resource Zone
NAAQS:	National Ambient Air Quality Standard
NEPA:	National Environmental Policy Act
NFIP:	National Flood Insurance Program
NPDES:	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
OES:	Office of Emergency Services (Butte County)
OSHA:	Occupational Safety and Health Administration (US)
PRD:	Permanent Road Division
PRPD:	Paradise Recreation and Park District
PUD:	Planned Unit Development
RHNA:	Regional Housing Needs Allocation
RTP:	BCAG 2035 Regional Transportation Plan
RWQCB:	Regional Water Quality Control Board

SB:	Senate Bill (State)
SCOR:	Sewerage Commission – Oroville Region
SMARA:	Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (State)
SMGB:	State Mining and Geology Board
SOI:	Sphere of Influence
SVAB:	Sacramento Valley Air Basin
SWRCB:	State Water Resources Control Board
TDC:	Transfer of Development Credits
USFWS:	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
VMT:	Vehicle miles traveled

B. Terminology

Acceptable Risk

A hazard that is deemed to be a tolerable exposure to danger given the expected benefits to be obtained. The level of loss, injury, or destruction below which no specific action by local government is deemed necessary other than making the risk known. Different levels of acceptable risk may be assigned according to the potential danger and the criticalness of the threatened structure. The levels may range from “near zero” for nuclear plants and natural gas transmission lines to “moderate” for farm structures and low-intensity warehouse uses.

Acreage, Gross

The land area that exists prior to any dedications for public use, health and safety purposes.

Acreage, Net

The portion of a site that can actually be built upon, which is the land area remaining after dedication of ultimate rights-of-way and utility easements for:

- Exterior boundary streets.
- Flood ways.
- Public parks and other open space developed to meet minimum standards required by County ordinance.

Action

An action is a program, implementation measure, procedure, or technique intended to help achieve a specified goal. (see “Goal”)

Adaptation

Making changes in response to current or future conditions (such as the increased frequency and intensity of climate-related hazards), usually to reduce harm and to take advantage of new opportunities.[1,2] Climate change adaptation describes actions that address the projected impacts on all aspects of community function that may result from climate change. This can include impacts related to hazard events (flood, wildfire, drought, severe storms), as well as slow changes that affect agricultural, forestry, and fisheries productivity; ecosystem structure and function; and public health.[3]

[1] Louise Bedsworth, Dan Cayan, Guido Franco, Leah Fisher, Sonya Ziaja, "Statewide Summary Report," in *California's Fourth Climate Change Assessment*, publication number: SUMCCCA4-2018-013, 2018.

[2] California Natural Resource Agency, Safeguarding California Plan: *2018 Update: California's Climate Adaptation Strategy, 2018*, http://resources.ca.gov/docs/climate/safeguarding/update2018/safeguarding-california-plan-2018-update.pdf.

[3] California Governor's Office of Emergency Services, *California State Hazard Mitigation Plan*, 2018, https://www.caloes.ca.gov/cal-oesdivisions/hazard-mitigation/hazard-mitigation- planning/state-hazard-mitigation-plan.

Adaptive capacity

The combination of the strengths, attributes, and resources available to an individual or community that can be used to prepare for and undertake actions to reduce adverse impacts, moderate harm, or exploit beneficial opportunities.[4]

[4] Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, "Annex II: GLOSSARY," ed. K. J. Mach, S. Planton, and C. von Stechow, in *Climate Change 2014: Synthesis Report*, ed. Core Writing Team, R. K. Pachauri, and L. A. Meyer (Geneva, Switzerland: IPCC, 2014), p. 117–130, https:// www.ipcc.ch/report/ar5/syr/.

Adverse Impact

A negative consequence for the physical, social, or economic environment resulting from an action or project.

Archaeological Resource

Material evidence of past human activity found below the surface of ground or water, portions of which may be visible above the surface.

Area of Origin Water Rights

The existing water right priority system that provides the authority for water management decisions to be made locally.

Arterials

Major thoroughfares that carry large volumes of traffic at relatively high speeds. Arterials are designed to facilitate two or more lanes of moving vehicles in each direction and rarely contain on-street parking.

Base Flood (100-year flood)

In any given year, a flood that has a 1 percent likelihood of occurring, and is recognized as a standard for acceptable risk.

Bicycle Lane (Class II facility)

A corridor expressly reserved for bicycles, existing on a street or roadway in addition to lanes for use by motorized vehicles.

Bicycle Path (Class I facility)

A paved route, not on a street or roadway, expressly reserved for bicycles traversing an otherwise unpaved area. Bicycle paths may be parallel to roads but are typically separated from them by landscaping.

Bicycle Route (Class III facility)

A roadway shared with motorists and identified only by signs, a bicycle route has no pavement markings or lane stripes.

Bikeways

A term that encompasses “bicycle lanes,” “bicycle paths,” and “bicycle routes.”

Buffer

An area established between potentially conflicting land uses, such as agricultural and non-agricultural uses, which, depending on the potential impact, may utilize landscaping or structural barriers such as setbacks or roads.

Buildout

Development of land to its full potential, or theoretical capacity, as permitted under current or proposed planning or zoning designations.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

Legislation and corresponding procedural components established in 1970 by the State of California to require environmental review for projects anticipated to result in adverse impacts to the environment.

Capital Improvements Program

A program that schedules permanent improvements, usually for a minimum of five years in the future, that fits the projected fiscal capability of the local jurisdiction. The program generally is reviewed on an annual basis for conformance to and consistency with the General Plan.

Carrying Capacity

Used in determining the potential of an area to absorb development: (1) The level of land use, human activity, or development for a specific area that can be permanently accommodated without an irreversible change in the quality of air, water, land, or plant and animal habitats. (2) The upper limits of development beyond which the quality of human life, health, welfare, safety, or community character within an area will be impaired. (3) The maximum level of development allowable under current zoning. (See “Build-out”)

Collectors

Collectors are roadways that connect local streets to “arterials,” usually provide two travel lanes for automobiles, and may also have bicycle lanes.

Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL)

A 24-hour energy equivalent level derived from a variety of single-noise events, with weighting factors of 5 and 10 dBA applied to the evening (7 PM to 10 PM) and nighttime (10 PM to 7 AM) periods, respectively, to allow for the greater sensitivity to noise during these hours.

Community Supported Agriculture

Community Supported Agriculture consists of a community of individuals who pledge support to a farm operation so that the farmland becomes, either legally or cooperatively, the community's farm, with the growers and consumers providing mutual support and sharing the risks and benefits of food production. Typically, members or “share-holders” of the farm or garden pledge in advance to cover the anticipated costs of the farm operation and farmer’s salary.

Compatible

Capable of existing together without conflict or ill effects.

Complete Streets

Complete Streets require all road construction and improvement projects to evaluating how the right-of-way serves all who use it including pedestrians, bicyclists and transit users.

Conditional Use Permit

The discretionary and conditional review of an activity or function or operation on a site or in a building or facility.

Conservation

The management and use of natural resources in a sustainable manner.

Conserve

To use natural resources sustainably.

Corridor

Linear areas located along arterial roadways, typically one to two lots deep on either side of the road. They contain a mix of retail, office and residential uses.

Critical facilities

Facilities whose continued functioning is necessary to maintain public health and safety following a disaster, and where damage or failure could pose hazards to life and property well beyond their immediate vicinity. In Butte County, these facilities include public safety, emergency response, emergency medical, emergency shelters, communications, public utility plant facilities, essential government operations, at- risk population facilities, and hazardous materials facilities.

Cul-de-sac

A short street or alley with only a single means of ingress and egress at one end and with a turnaround at its other end.

Cultural Resources

Includes historic, archaeological and paleontological resources, as well as human remains.

Cumulative Impact

As used in CEQA, the total environmental impact resulting from the accumulated impacts of individual projects or programs over time.

Decibel (dB)

A unit used to express the relative intensity of a sound as it is heard by the human ear. The lowest volume a normal ear can detect under laboratory conditions is 0 dB, the threshold of human hearing. Since the decibel scale is logarithmic, 10 decibels are ten times more intense and 20 decibels are a hundred times more intense than 1 db.

dBA

The “A-weighted” scale for measuring sound in decibels, which weighs or reduces the effects of low and high frequencies in order to simulate human hearing. Every increase of 10 dBA doubles the perceived loudness even though the noise is actually ten times more intense.

Dedication

The turning over by an owner or developer of private land for public use, and the acceptance of land for such use by the governmental agency having jurisdiction over the public function for which it will be used. Dedications for roads, parks, school sites, or other public uses are often required by a City or County as conditions for approval of a development. (See “in-lieu fee”)

Density

The amount of development or people per unit of area or property. (See also “Density, residential” and “Floor Area Ratio”)

Density, Residential (du/acre)

The number of permanent residential dwelling units (du) per acre of land. Densities specified in the General Plan are expressed in dwelling units per net acreage (du/acre), minus any land dedications, and not per gross acre. (See “Acres, Gross” and “Acres, Net”)

Development Review; Design Review

The comprehensive evaluation of a development and its impact on neighboring properties and the community as a whole, from the standpoint of site and landscape design, architecture, materials, colors, lighting and signs, in accordance with a set of adopted criteria and standards.

Development

The physical extension and/or construction of non-farm land uses. Development activities include: subdivision of land; construction or alteration of structures, roads, utilities and other facilities; installation of septic systems; grading; deposit of refuse, debris or fill materials; and clearing of natural vegetative cover (with the exception of agricultural activities). The construction of a single-family home on an existing lot, and routine repair and maintenance activities, are exempted.

Disabled

Persons determined to have a physical impairment or mental disorder, which is expected to be of long, continued or indefinite duration and is of such a nature that the person’s ability to live independently could be improved by more suitable housing conditions.

Duplex

A free-standing house divided into two separate living units or residences, usually having separate entrances.

Dwelling Unit (du)

The place of customary abode of a person or household, which is either considered to be real property under State law or cannot be easily moved.

Ecosystem

An interacting system formed by a biotic community and its physical environment.

Environmental Impact Report (EIR)

A report required pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) that assesses all the environmental characteristics of an area, determines what effects or impacts will result if the area is altered or disturbed by a proposed action, and identifies alternatives or other measures to avoid or reduce those impacts. (See “California Environmental Quality Act”)

Evacuation center

A site or building designated by the Butte County Office of Emergency Management during and after a disaster to provide emergency shelter, communications, and a meeting point to community members and visitors evacuating.

Evacuation route

A roadway designated on the Butte County Community Evacuation Maps as a recommended route to travel when evacuating from a hazardous condition.

Fault

A fracture in the earth's crust that forms a boundary between rock masses that have shifted.

Flood, 100-year

In any given year, a flood that has a 1 percent likelihood of occurring, and is recognized as a standard for acceptable risk.

Floodplain

The relatively level land area on either side of the banks of a stream regularly subject to flooding.

Floodplain, 200-year

Areas that have a 1-in-200 chance of flooding in any given year using criteria consistent with, or developed by, the Department of Water Resources. As used in the HEALTH AND SAFETY ELEMENT, the term shall be ascribed to all areas labeled as such on Figure HS-2.

Floodway

The part of the floodplain capable of conveying the 100-year flood with no more than a one-foot rise in water. The floodway includes the river channel itself and adjacent land areas.

Floor Area Ratio (FAR)

The size of a building in square feet (gross floor area) divided by gross land area, expressed as a decimal number. For example, a 60,000-square-foot building on a 120,000-square-foot parcel would have a floor area ratio of 0.50. The FAR is used in calculating the building intensity of non-residential development.

General Plan

A compendium of County policies regarding its long-term development, in the form of maps and accompanying text. The General Plan is a legal document required of each local agency by the State of California Government Code Section 65301 and adopted by the Board of Supervisors. In California, the General Plan has seven mandatory elements (Circulation, Conservation, Housing, Land Use, Noise, Open Space and Public Safety) and may include any number of optional elements the jurisdiction deems important.

Goal

A description of the general desired results to create through the implementation of the General Plan. Goals are included in each element of the Plan and may include the key physical or community characteristics that residents wish to maintain or develop.

Graywater

The less contaminated portion of domestic wastewater, including wash water from clothes washers and laundry tubs.

Groundwater

Water that exists beneath the earth's surface, typically found between saturated soils and rock, and is used to supply wells and springs.

Growth Management

The use by a community of a wide range of techniques in combination to determine the amount, type and rate of development desired by the community and to channel that growth into designated areas. Growth management policies can be implemented through building permit caps, public facilities/infrastructure ordinances, urban limit lines, standards for levels of service, phasing and other programs.

Habitat

The physical location or type of environment in which an organism or biological population lives or occurs.

Hazard

An event or physical condition that has the potential to cause fatalities, injuries, property damage, infrastructure damage, agricultural losses, damage to the environment, interruption of business, or other types of harm or loss.[5]

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[5] California Governor's Office of Emergency Services, *California State Hazard Mitigation Plan*, 2018, https://www.caloes.ca.gov/cal-oes-divisions/hazard-mitigation/hazard-mitigationplanning/state-hazard-mitigation-plan.

Household

All persons occupying a single dwelling unit.

Impact

The effects (especially the negative effects) of a hazard or other conditions associated with climate change. Impact is often considered the combination of exposure and sensitivity.[6]

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[6] World Bank Group, *Action Plan on Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience: Managing Risks for a More Resilient Future*, 2019, http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/519821547481031999/The-World-Bank-Groups-Action-Plan-on-Climate-ChangeAdaptation-and-Resilience-Managing-Risks-for-a-More-Resilient-Future.pdf.

Impact Fee

A fee charged to a developer by a jurisdiction according to the proposed development project, typically by number of units, square footage or acreage. The fee is often used to offset costs incurred by the municipality for services and infrastructure such as schools, roads, police and fire services, and parks.

Impervious Surface

Surface through which water cannot penetrate, such as a roof, road, sidewalk, or paved parking lot. The amount of impervious surface increases with development and establishes the need for drainage facilities to carry the increased runoff.

Implementation

Actions, procedures, programs, or techniques that carry out policies.

Infill Development

Development that occurs on vacant or underutilized land within areas that area already largely developed.

In-Lieu Fee

Cash payments that may be required of an owner or developer as a substitute for a dedication of land for public use, usually calculated in dollars per lot, and referred to as in-lieu fees or in-lieu contributions. (See "dedication")

Land Use

The occupation or utilization of an area of land for any human activity or any purpose.

Land Use Designation

One particular category in a classification series of appropriate use of properties established by the General Plan LAND USE ELEMENT.

Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED)

A voluntary, consensus-based national standard for developing and rating high- performance, sustainable "green" buildings. LEED provides a complete framework for assessing building performance and meeting sustainability goals, such as water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection and indoor environmental quality. LEED standards are currently available or under development for: new commercial construction and major renovation projects, existing building operations, commercial interiors projects, core and shell projects, and homes.

L_{eq}, Equivalent Sound Level

The average of sound energy occurring over a specified period. The Leq is equivalent to the same average acoustical energy as the time-varying sound that actually occurs during a specified period.

Level of Service (Traffic)

A scale that measures the amount of traffic that a roadway or intersection can accommodate, based on such factors as maneuverability, driver dissatisfaction and delay.

Level of Service A

A relatively free flow of traffic, with little or no limitation on vehicle movement or speed.

Level of Service B

Describes a steady flow of traffic, with only slight delays in vehicle movement and speed. All queues clear in a single signal cycle.

Level of Service C

Denotes a reasonably steady, high-volume flow of traffic, with some limitations on movement and speed, and occasional backups on critical approaches.

Level of Service D

Designates the level where traffic nears an unstable flow. Intersections still function, but short queues develop and cars may have to wait through one signal cycle during short peaks.

Level of Service E

Represents traffic characterized by slow movement and frequent (although momentary) stoppages. This type of congestion is considered severe, but is not uncommon at peak traffic hours, with frequent stopping, long-standing queues and blocked intersections.

Level of Service F

Describes unsatisfactory stop-and-go traffic characterized by "traffic jams" and stoppages of long duration. Vehicles at signalized intersections usually have to wait through one or more signal changes, and "upstream" intersections may be blocked by the long queues.

Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO)

A five- or seven-member commission within each county that reviews and evaluates all proposals for formation of special districts, incorporation of cities, annexation to special districts or cities, consolidation of districts and merger of districts with cities. Each county's LAFCO is empowered to approve, disapprove, or conditionally approve such proposals.

Low Impact Development (LID)

Development that promotes stormwater management in a way that minimizes run- off close to its source, ranging from the level of the site to the watershed. Under LID practices, run-off is retained or reused on-site rather than draining to waterbodies or evaporating. Methods include rain gardens, vegetated rooftops and permeable pavement.

Military Operations Areas (MOAs)

A three-dimensional airspace designated for military training and transport activities that have a defined floor (minimum altitude) and ceiling (maximum altitude). MOA boundaries and minimum altitudes are identified in Figure LU-5. Uses within MOAs shall be reviewed for hazards to aircraft within MOAs, including:

- Uses that release into the air any substance that would impair pilot visibility, such as steam, dust and smoke.
- Uses that produce light emissions, glare or distracting lights that could interfere with pilot vision or be mistaken for airfield lighting.
- Uses that physically obstruct any portion of the MOAs due to relative height above ground level.

Mixed Use

Any mixture of land uses, including mixtures of residences with commercial, offices with retail, or visitor accommodation with offices and retail. As distinguished from a single-use land use designation or zone, mixed use refers to an authorized variety of uses for buildings and structures in a particular area.

Mobile Home

A structure, transportable in one or more sections, built on a permanent chassis and designed for use as a single-family dwelling unit and which: (1) has a minimum of 400 square feet of living space; (2) has a minimum width in excess of 102 inches; (3) is connected to all available permanent utilities; and (4) is tied down (a) to a permanent foundation on a lot either owned or leased by the homeowner or (b) is set on piers, with wheels removed and skirted, in a mobile home park.

Mobile Home Park

A parcel of land under one ownership that has been planned and improved for the placement of two or more mobile homes for rental purposes for nontransient use.

Municipality

An incorporated city or town.

Neighborhood

Relatively large residential areas that have some common characteristics, such as a common history, common physical characteristics (such as architectural style), a common meeting place or more intangible characteristics (such as a psychological sense of cohesion), or clear physical boundaries (such as waterways or major roads).

Noise Contour

A line connecting points of equal noise level as measured on the same scale. Noise levels greater than the 60 Ldn contour (measured in dBA) require noise attenuation in residential development.

Non-Conforming Use

A use that was valid when brought into existence, but no longer permitted by later regulation. "Non-conforming use" is a generic term and includes: (1) non- conforming structures (because their size, type of construction, location on land, or proximity to other structures is no longer permitted); (2) non-conforming use of a conforming building; (3) non-conforming use of a non-conforming building; and (4) non- conforming use of land. Any use lawfully existing on any piece of property that is inconsistent with a new or amended General Plan, and that in turn is a violation of a zoning ordinance amendment subsequently adopted in conformance with the General Plan, will be a non-conforming use. Typically, non-conforming uses are permitted to continue, subject to certain restrictions.

Overlay

A land use designation on the Land Use Map, or a zoning designation on a zoning map, that modifies the basic underlying designation or designations in some specific manner.

Pavely Clean Car Standards

Assembly Bill 1493 grants the State of California the authority to implement greenhouse gas emission reduction standards for new passenger cars, pickup trucks and sport utility vehicles, beginning with 2009 models. The Pavely clean car standards are expected to reduce 30 percent of greenhouse gas emissions from California vehicles by 2016.

Parcel

A lot, or contiguous group of lots, in single ownership or under single control, usually considered a unit for purposes of development.

Planned Unit Development (PUD)

A description of a proposed unified development, consisting at a minimum of a map and adopted ordinance setting forth the governing regulations, and the location and phasing of all proposed uses and improvements to be included in the development.

Policy

A specific statement of principle or of guiding actions that implies clear commitment but is not mandatory. A general direction that a governmental agency sets to follow, in order to meet its goals before undertaking an implementing action or program. (See "Action")

Public assembly points and refuge areas

A temporary assembly area for evacuees to assemble until conditions subside and evacuation routes are accessible, or for evacuees who otherwise cannot evacuate the community on their own and need assistance to be moved to a shelter.

Resilience

The capacity of any entity to prepare for disruptions, to recover from shocks and stresses, and to adapt and grow from a disruptive experience.[7]

[7] California Governor's Office of Emergency Services. 2020. *California Adaptation Planning Guide*. https://www.caloes.ca.gov/HazardMitigationSite/Documents/CA-Adaptation-Planning-Guide-FINAL-June-2020-Accessible.pdf.

Riparian

A habitat and vegetation zone which is associated with the banks and floodplains of a river, stream, or lake. Riparian trees and shrubs are typically phreatophytes, plants whose root systems are in constant contact with groundwater.

Rural Arterials

Rural arterial roadways generally provide for substantial intra-regional travel. These facilities are often regional highways or freeways that link urban centers and significant population centers.

Rural Collectors

Rural collector roadways serve travel that is primarily intra-county rather than of regional or statewide importance. Travel distances on these roads are usually shorter than on arterial roadways.

Rural Local Roads

Rural local roadways primarily provide access to adjacent land and travel over relatively short distances.

Safe Routes to Schools

Pedestrian and bicycling routes that provide safe access to and from schools.

Seniors

Persons 65 years of age or older.

Sensitive Receptors

Uses sensitive to noise such as residential areas, hospitals, convalescent homes and facilities and schools.

Slow Street

Slow streets are alternative routes to fast roadways that utilize traffic calming signs and physical barriers to slow down traffic.

Specific Plan

Under Article 8 of the Government Code (Section 65450 et seq), a legal tool for detailed design and implementation of a defined portion of the area covered by a General Plan. A specific plan may include all detailed regulations, conditions, programs and/or proposed legislation which may be necessary or convenient for the systematic implementation of any General Plan element(s). (See also “Planned Unit Development”)

Sphere of Influence (SOI)

The probably physical boundaries and service area of the city, as determined by the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) of the county.

Sustainable

Describes practices that meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.[1]

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[1] World Commission on Environment and Development, 1987, *Our Common Future, Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development,* Oxford University Press.

Townhouse/Townhome

A series of residences, often two to three stories in height, that are connected side by side in a row with each having a separate street-level entrance.

Traffic Calming

Measures designed to reduce motor vehicle speeds and to encourage pedestrian use, including:

narrow streets	parking bays
tight turning radii	textured paving at intersections
sidewalk bulbouts	parkways between sidewalks and streets

Triplex

A free-standing house divided into three separate living units or residences, usually having separate entrances.

Unincorporated Area

Encompasses properties that are located outside of municipalities. Development in the unincorporated area is subject to County jurisdiction.

Urban

An area that is developed with dense residential uses and/or intense non-residential uses. Typically, urban areas are served by sewer and water infrastructure.

Urban Area

A developed area in which there are 10,000 residents or more.

Urban Arterials

Urban arterial roadways are fed by local and collector roads and provide intra-city circulation and connection to regional roadways. They can be further divided into major and minor facilities. Although their primary purpose is to move traffic, arterial roadways often provide access to adjacent properties, especially in commercial areas.

Urban Collectors

Urban collector roadways are intended to collect traffic from local roadways and carry it to roads higher in the hierarchy of classification. Collector roads also serve adjacent properties.

Urban and Local Roads

Urban and local roadways are intended to serve adjacent properties only. They are intended to carry very little, if any, through traffic and generally have low volumes. They are normally discontinuous in alignment to discourage through traffic, although many cities and communities in Butte County are laid out in a grid system, which provides for greater connectivity and dispersion.

Urban and Rural Expressways

Expressways are high-speed facilities with limited access from adjacent development. Expressways provide relatively high-speed connections, but with limited access compared to a conventional highway.

Urban and Rural Freeways

Freeways are intended to serve inter-regional travel. They provide no access to adjacent properties, but rather are fed traffic from collector and arterial roadways by access ramps at interchanges. Freeways provide connections to other regional highways and are capable of carrying heavy traffic volumes.

Urban and Rural Highways

Urban and rural highways are used as primary connections between major traffic generators or as primary links in State and national highway networks. Such routes often have sections of many miles through rural environments without traffic control interruptions.

Urban Growth Boundary

A boundary line that limits development beyond the urban growth boundary.

Urbanizing Area

A developed area or an area outside a developed area that is planned or anticipated to have 10,000 residents or more within the next 10 years.

Urban Level of Flood Protection

The level of protection that is necessary to withstand flooding that has a 1-in-200 chance of occurring in any given year using criteria consistent with or developed by the Department of Water Resources. Urban level of flood protection shall not mean shallow flooding (less than 3 feet) or flooding from local drainage that meets the criteria of the national FEMA standard of flood protection, and the ULOP shall only apply in urban or urbanizing areas as defined by Government Code Section 65007.

Use

The purpose for which a lot or structure is or may be leased, occupied, maintained, arranged, designed, intended, constructed, erected, moved, altered and/or enlarged in accordance with the County zoning ordinance and General Plan land use designations.

Utility Corridor

Rights-of-way or easements for utility lines on either publicly or privately owned property.

Vulnerability

The degree to which natural, built, and human systems are susceptible to harm from exposure to stresses associated with environmental and social change and from the absence of capacity to adapt.[8]

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[8] California Governor's Office of Emergency Services. 2020. *California Adaptation Planning Guide*. https://www.caloes.ca.gov/HazardMitigationSite/Documents/CA-Adaptation-Planning-Guide-FINAL-June-2020-Accessible.pdf.

Vulnerability assessment

An analysis of how climate change may harm a community and which populations and assets are most vulnerable to its effects based on an assessment of exposure, sensitivity, the potential impacts, and the community's adaptive capacity.9

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[9] California Governor's Office of Emergency Services. 2020. *California Adaptation Planning Guide*. https://www.caloes.ca.gov/HazardMitigationSite/Documents/CA-Adaptation-Planning-Guide-FINAL-June-2020-Accessible.pdf.

Wastewater

Water that has already been used for washing, flushing, or in a manufacturing process, and therefore contains waste products such as sewage or chemical by- products.

Wetland

An area that is inundated or saturated by surface water or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions, commonly known as hydrophytic vegetation.

Xeriscape

Landscaping with an emphasis on water conservation and efficiency.

Zoning

The division of a County by ordinance or other legislative regulation into districts or zones, which specify allowable uses for real property and size restrictions for buildings constructed in these areas; a program that implements the land use policies of the General Plan.

16 LIST OF PREPARERS



The Citizens Advisory Committee in action. Photo courtesy of the Butte County Department of Development Services.

I. GENERAL PLAN 2040 UPDATE

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II. GENERAL PLAN 2030 UPDATE

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Agricultural
Commissioner Assessor
CAL-Fire/Butte County Fire Department
Department of Employment and Social Services
Development Services, Building Division
District Attorney
Emergency Management
Information Systems/GIS Library
Public Health
Public Works
Sheriff-Coroner
Water and Resource Conservation

B. Other Agencies

Butte County Air Quality Management District

Butte County Airport Land Use Commission

Butte County Association of Governments

Butte Local Agency Formation Commission

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APPENDIX A GENERAL PLAN 2040 GOALS

4. Land Use Element

Goal LU-1 Continue to uphold and respect the planning principles on

Goal LU-2 Provide for orderly, well-planned and balanced growth that maintains private property rights.

Goal LU-3 Create communities where there is a sense of well-being where families and neighbors can socialize, interact and play.

Goal LU-4 Provide high-quality housing in a range of residential densities and types.

Goal LU-5 Provide adequate land for and promote the development of attractive commercial and industrial areas and uses that provide goods, services and jobs.

Goal LU-6 Provide adequate land for the development of public and quasi-public uses, as a means to provide necessary public services and facilities in support of existing and new residential, commercial and industrial land uses.

Goal LU-7 Promote public participation in the County's planning processes.

Goal LU-8 Promote development near existing infrastructure and services, and within already-developed areas.

Goal LU-9 Coordinate land development with provision of new services and infrastructure.

Goal LU-10 Ensure that services and infrastructure are adequately funded.

Goal LU-11 Effectively coordinate planning efforts with the municipalities.

Goal LU-12 Coordinate planning efforts within the county and region.

Goal LU-13 Plan for growth and protect agriculture in the Chico area through the Chico Area Greenline.

Goal LU-14 Direct development to existing urbanized areas

Goal LU-15 Uphold the policies and planning areas identified under the separately adopted Durham Dayton Nelson Plan (1992) and Upper Ridge Community Plan (2022).

Goal LU-16 Identify, coordinate and assist in resolving potential land use conflicts within the Military Operations Areas to ensure that new development is compatible with military operations and to safeguard mission training requirements and support military readiness.

5. Housing Element

The HOUSING ELEMENT is being revised through a separate process. The HOUSING ELEMENT Goals will be integrated into this document as part of the Final Draft General Plan.

6. Economic Development Element

Goal ED-1 Improve the local economy by diversifying the economy, reducing the unemployment rate, increasing business revenues to the County and increasing wages.

Goal ED-2 Promote and support the local agricultural economic sector.

Goal ED-3 Improve the County's fiscal health.

7. Agriculture Element

Goal AG-1 Protect, maintain, promote and enhance Butte County's agriculture uses and resources, a major source of food, employment and income in Butte County.

Goal AG-2 Protect Butte County's agricultural lands from conversion to non-agricultural uses.

Goal AG-3 Promote innovative and economically viable agriculture.

Goal AG-4 Promote niche and specialty agriculture.

Goal AG-5 Reduce conflicts between urban and agricultural uses and between habitat mitigation banking and agricultural uses.

Goal AG-6 Provide adequate infrastructure and services to support agriculture.

Goal AG-7 Support resilient agricultural lands and practices.

Goal AG-8 Support farmworker and farm family housing in agricultural areas.

8. Water Resources Element

Goal W-1 Maintain and enhance water quality.

Goal W-2 Ensure an abundant and sustainable water supply to support all uses in Butte County.

Goal W-3 Protect and manage groundwater resources in Butte County.

Goal W-4 Support coordination between Groundwater Sustainability Agencies in Butte County.

Goal W-5 Promote water conservation as an important part of a long- term and and sustainable water supply.

Goal W-6 Protect water quality through effective stormwater management.

Goal W-7 Improve streambank stability and protect riparian resources.

Goal W-8 Improve resiliency of water supplies and related infrastructure impacted by climate change, including natural disasters such as wildfire, drought, and flooding.

9. Circulation Element

Goal CIR-1 Promote intergovernmental communication and cooperation concerning transportation-related issues.

Goal CIR-2 Strive to operate and modify the transportation network to accommodate planned land use growth in a manner that reduces per-capita vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and related greenhouse gas and air pollutant emissions.

Goal CIR-3 Design new neighborhoods and improve existing neighborhoods to accommodate and promote alternative modes of transportation.

Goal CIR-4 Promote a balanced and integrated public transit system to maximize efficient mobility that minimizes harm to people when traveling.

Goal CIR-5 Provide a continuous, integrated, and accessible bicycle system to encourage the use of the bicycle as a viable transportation mode and as a form of recreation and exercise.

Goal CIR-6 Support a balanced and integrated road and highway network that maximizes the efficient mobility of people and goods in a manner that limits harm to people when traveling.

Goal CIR-7 Develop a transportation system that is consistent with and will support existing and proposed patterns and densities of land use and that encourages efficient land utilization.

Goal CIR-8 Provide an adequate road system that is within the County's ability to finance and maintain.

Goal CIR-9 Provide a circulation system that supports efficient mobility.

Goal CIR-10 Facilitate the mobility of Butte County residents with special mobility needs.

Goal CIR-11 Promote effective and efficient use of existing and future air facilities.

10. Conservation and Open Space Element

1. Greenhouse Gases

Goal COS-1 Reduce greenhouse gas emissions to support the State's goal of carbon neutrality by 2045 by reducing emissions to 6.0 MTCO2e per person by 2030, 4.0 MTCO2e per person by 2040, and no more than 2.0 MTCO2e per person by 2050.

Goal COS-2 Promote green building, planning, and businesses.

3. Energy

Goal COS-3 Promote a renewable and resilient energy supply that relies on carbon free electricity or other low-carbon, clean energy sources.

Goal COS-4 Conserve energy and fuel resources by increasing energy efficiency.

3. Air Quality

Goal COS-5 Minimize air pollutant emissions.

4. Biological Resources

Goal COS-6 Engage in cooperative planning efforts to protect biological resources.

Goal COS-7 Conserve and enhance habitat for protected species and sensitive biological communities.

Goal COS-8 Maintain and promote native vegetation.

Goal COS-9 Protect identified special-status plant and animal species.

Goal COS-10 Facilitate the survival of deer herds in winter and critical Timber Resources.

Goal COS-11 Protect timber resources and promote sustainable timber production.

5. Mineral and Soil Resources

Goal COS-12 Support resilient forest lands that resist forestry pests and

Goal COS-13 Protect economically viable mineral resources and related industries while avoiding land use conflicts and environmental impacts from mining activities.

6. Military Installations

Goal COS-14 Coordinate with the Beale Air Force Base and the Department of Defense (DoD) on planning issues within the Military Influence and Operating Areas.

7. Cultural Resources

Goal COS-15 Preserve important cultural resources.

Goal COS-16 Ensure that new development does not adversely impact cultural resources.

Goal COS-17 Respect Native American culture and planning concerns.

8. Scenic Resources

Goal COS-18 Maintain and enhance the quality of Butte County's scenic and visual resources.

Goal COS-19 Protect and enhance scenic areas adjacent to and visible from highways for enjoyment by residents and visitors.

11. Health and Safety Element

1. Noise

Goal HS-1 Maintain an acceptable noise environment in all areas of the county.

2. Flood Hazards and Dam Inundation

Goal HS-2 Protect people and property from flood risk.

Goal HS-3 Prevent and reduce flooding.

Goal HS-4 Reduce risks from levee failure.

Goal HS-5 Reduce risks from dam inundation.

3. Seismic and Geologic Hazards

Goal HS-6 Reduce risks from earthquakes.

Goal HS-7 Reduce risks from steep slopes and landslides.

Goal HS-8 Reduce risks from erosion.

Goal HS-9 Reduce risks from expansive soils.

Goal HS-10 Avoid inelastic subsidence from groundwater withdrawal.

4. Fire Hazards

Goal HS-11 Reduce risks from wildland and urban fire.

Goal HS-12 Protect people and property from wildland or urban fires.

Goal HS-13 Identify safe and effective evacuation routes and access for fire prevention and suppression.

5. Hazardous Materials

Goal HS-14 Ensure that communities are resilient and can effectively recover from wildfires.

Goal HS-15 Reduce risks from the harmful effects of hazardous materials.

6. Emergency Response and Disaster Preparedness

Goal HS-16 Ensure communities are prepared for and able to respond to emergency situations and disasters with changing future conditions.

Goal HS-17 Ensure communities are connected and informed about climate hazard risks, preparedness, and response.

Goal HS-18 Ensure communities have safe and reliable evacuation capabilities.

7. Community Health

Goal HS-19 Provide for the health, safety, and well-being of the county's present and future residents.

8. Climate Change Adaptation and Resilence

Goal HS-20 Ensure communities can continue to function and thrive with an increase in average temperatures and extreme heat days.

Goal HS-21 Ensure utilities, buildings, and infrastructure are climate resilient and able to meet vital community needs during and after severe storm events.

12. Public Facilities and Services Element

1. General Government Services

Goal PUB-1 Maintain facilities and staff adequate to provide appropriate levels of government services and administration for the Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services

Goal PUB-2 Provide adequate fire protection and emergency medical response services to serve existing and new development.

2. Sheriff Services

Goal PUB-3 Maintain a safe environment in Butte County through the enforcement of law.

3. Public Education

Goal PUB-4 Support high-quality schools and educational facilities for all Butte County residents.

4. Libraries

Goal PUB-5 Provide library services to meet the informational and social needs of each community.

5. Parks and Recreation

Goal PUB-6 Support a comprehensive and high-quality system of recreational open space and facilities.

Goal PUB-7 Encourage local, regional, State, and federal parks providers to engage in coordinated and cooperative planning efforts, and seek regular public comment and involvement in the planning process.

Goal PUB-8 Coordinate an interconnected multi-use trail system.

6. Solid Waste and Waste Diversion

Goal PUB-9 Provide safe, sanitary and environmentally acceptable solid waste management.

Goal PUB-10 Increase opportunities for safe recycling of electronic waste (e-waste) and hazardous waste by residents and businesses in Butte County.

Goal PUB-11 Increase recycling among Butte County residents, businesses and public agencies.

7. Wastewater

Goal PUB-12 Manage wastewater treatment facilities at every scale to protect the public health and safety of Butte County residents and the natural environment.

Goal PUB-13 Plan adequate wastewater infrastructure to serve new development.

13. Area and Neighborhood Plans Element

1. Durham Dayton Nelson Plan

Goal D2N-1 Provide a circulation and transportation system coordinated with land use to ensure streets and roads are safe, efficient and enhance the Planning Area's overall design and

Goal D2N-2 Provide affordable and adequate housing within the community to ensure the physical health, mental health, privacy and security of Planning Area residents.

Goal D2N-3 Improve overall air quality within the Planning Area and Butte County.

Goal D2N-4 Locate, extend and phase community facilities and services to provide for orderly development and economical utilization of resources. Ensure that growth is orderly and does not result in a significant burden to existing levels of public services and facilities.

Goal D2N-5 Protect and maintain areas of native vegetation which include riparian forest, valley freshwater marsh, valley oak woodland, vernal pools, annual grasslands and designated natural areas. Such areas deserve protection as part of the heritage of the communities, for the way such areas add to the aesthetic environment, and as important examples of the diversity of habitats and the wildlife they support within the Planning Area and the State.

Goal D2N-6 Utilize and develop natural resources so as to protect those resources and eliminate exposure of persons and property to environmental hazards

Goal D2N-7 Limit potential threats to human health and property which may result from natural environmental hazards.

Goal D2N-8 Ensure that the area's growth is in accordance with the desires and needs of the community, that future developments are safer and healthier as human habitats, more resilient to deteriorating forces and more consistent or harmonious with natural processes.

Goal D2N-9 Maintain and preserve for future generations the Planning Area's historical and cultural resources and pioneer heritage.

14. Environmental Justice Element

Goal EJ-1 Provide Communities of Opportunity with access to active recreation and public open space.

Goal EJ-2 Provide Communities of Opportunity with access to active transportation and transit.

Goal EJ-3 Provide Communities of Opportunity with access to fresh, healthy, and affordable food.

Goal EJ-4 Provide Communities of Opportunity with access to health care, including mental health care.

Goal EJ-5 Provide Communities of Opportunity with access to safe and sanitary housing.

Goal EJ-6 Provide Communities of Opportunity with access to vital public services and infrastructure.

Goal EJ-7 Provide Communities of Opportunity with access to educational and economic opportunities.

Goal EJ-8 Improve air quality and increase the tree canopy in Communities of Opportunity to reduce health risks associated with air pollutants.

Goal EJ-9 Ensure Communities of Opportunity are safe from and free of unhealthy contaminants in water and soil.

Goal EJ-10 Effectively engage residents of Communities of Opportunity regarding decisions that may affect their community.

APPENDIX B ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

This appendix lists strategies and tactics that could be considered for inclusion in an economic development plan and a tourism development plan for Butte County.

A. Economic Development Plan Strategies

Economic development plan strategies could include the following:

- Establishing a County-level economic development function.
- Coordinating with retraining and educational programs.
- Identifying target industries that provide above-average wages, as defined by the Employment Development Department average wage data for Butte County, and direct retention, expansion and recruitment efforts towards these industries.
- Identifying key economic development factors that support business development and encouraging excellence in each area, such as education, infrastructure, transportation, availability of appropriately zoned land, and streamlined permit processes.
- Partnering with existing economic development entities, business development entities and educational institutions to assist in the implementation of countywide economic development projects and programs, such as the development of flexible research and development and incubator spaces.
- Encouraging Butte County's college graduates to remain as county residents and employees.
- Recruiting new, high-quality workers to Butte County.
- Offering fiscal incentives, such as fee and tax reductions, deferrals, rebates, or waivers, to attract new industry.
- Supporting local Chambers of Commerce and organizations that support small businesses.
- Promoting sustainable business and new economic opportunities related to renewable energy.
- Using existing workforce studies to inform the planning process.

B. Tourism Development Plan Strategies

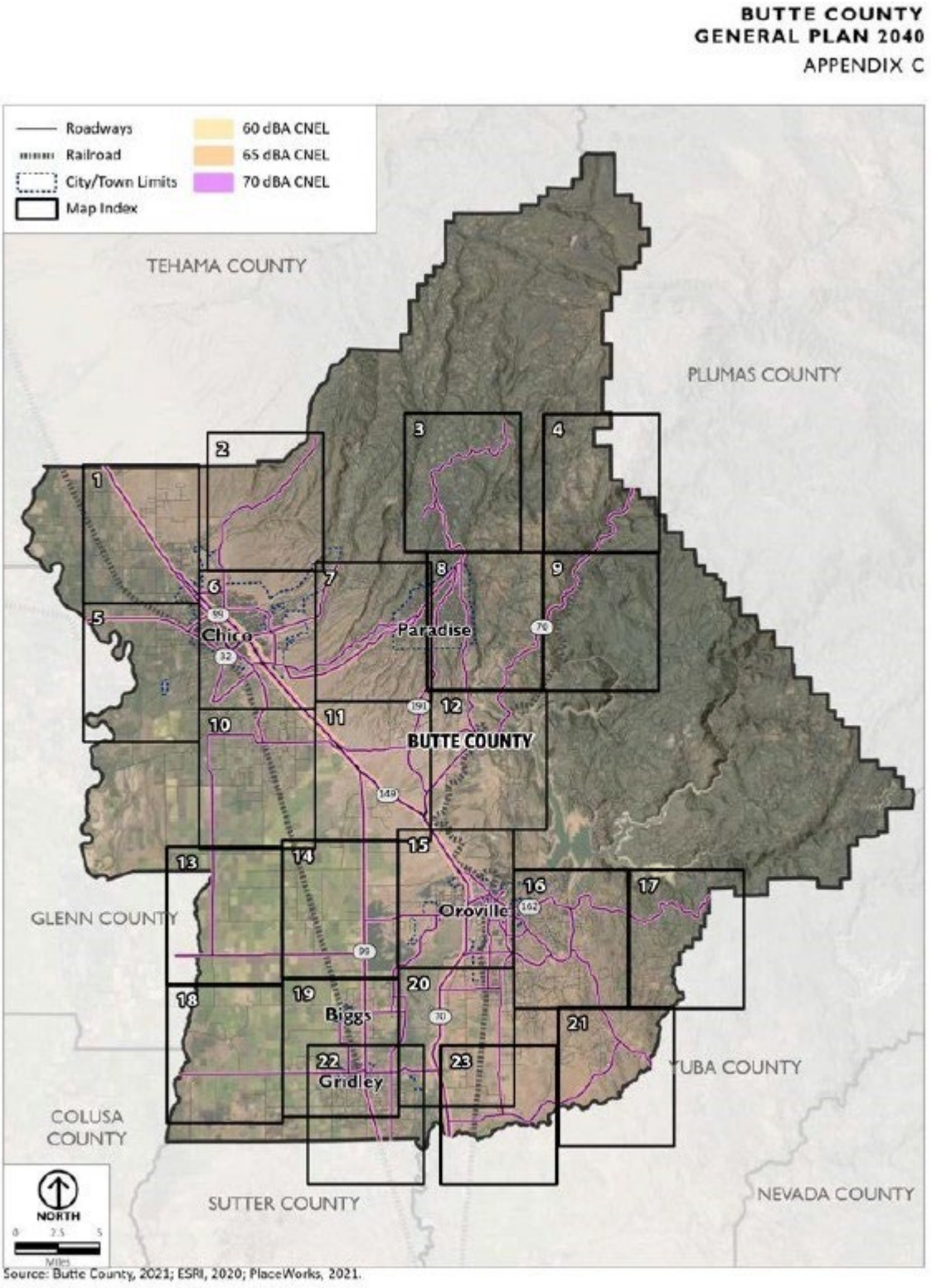
Tourism development plan strategies could include the following:

- Increasing coordination of tourism and recreation development at a range of scales, including with other counties, with the municipalities in Butte County, among the various sectors of Butte County tourism, and through public/private partnerships.
- Collaborating with existing tourism and recreation groups, such as the Central Sacramento Valley Resource Conservation and Development Area Council and local Chambers of Commerce, and out-of-state groups.

- Promoting Butte County as a destination for large events such as conferences and sporting events.
- Support for the development of conference centers, hotels, restaurants and transit options to serve large events.
- Promoting Butte County as a destination for recreational, cultural and amenity- based tourism.
- Promoting the development of high-quality tourist amenities, such as hotels and restaurants, in scenic areas, near such tourist destinations as the Feather River Canyon, Table Mountain and Lake Oroville.
- Preserving and using historic sites as tourist destinations.
- Encouraging tour companies to visit historic sites in Butte County.
- Considering the construction of a visitor center for Butte County.
- Creating a visitor center kiosk in each County library.
- Celebrating Native American heritage in marketing Butte County as a tourist destination, in consultation with local tribes.
- Raising the transient occupancy tax, and using the increase exclusively to fund tourism development efforts.
- Encouraging the County's municipalities to use a portion of their transient occupancy taxes for tourism development and coordinated tourism development efforts and planning.
- Prioritizing transportation infrastructure improvements that would support tourism.
- Encouraging the State to improve roadway access to Lake Oroville.
- Adding signage on Interstate 5 encouraging travelers to visit Butte County.
- Encouraging appropriate agencies to consider recreation in determining water levels for Lake Oroville and the Afterbay.

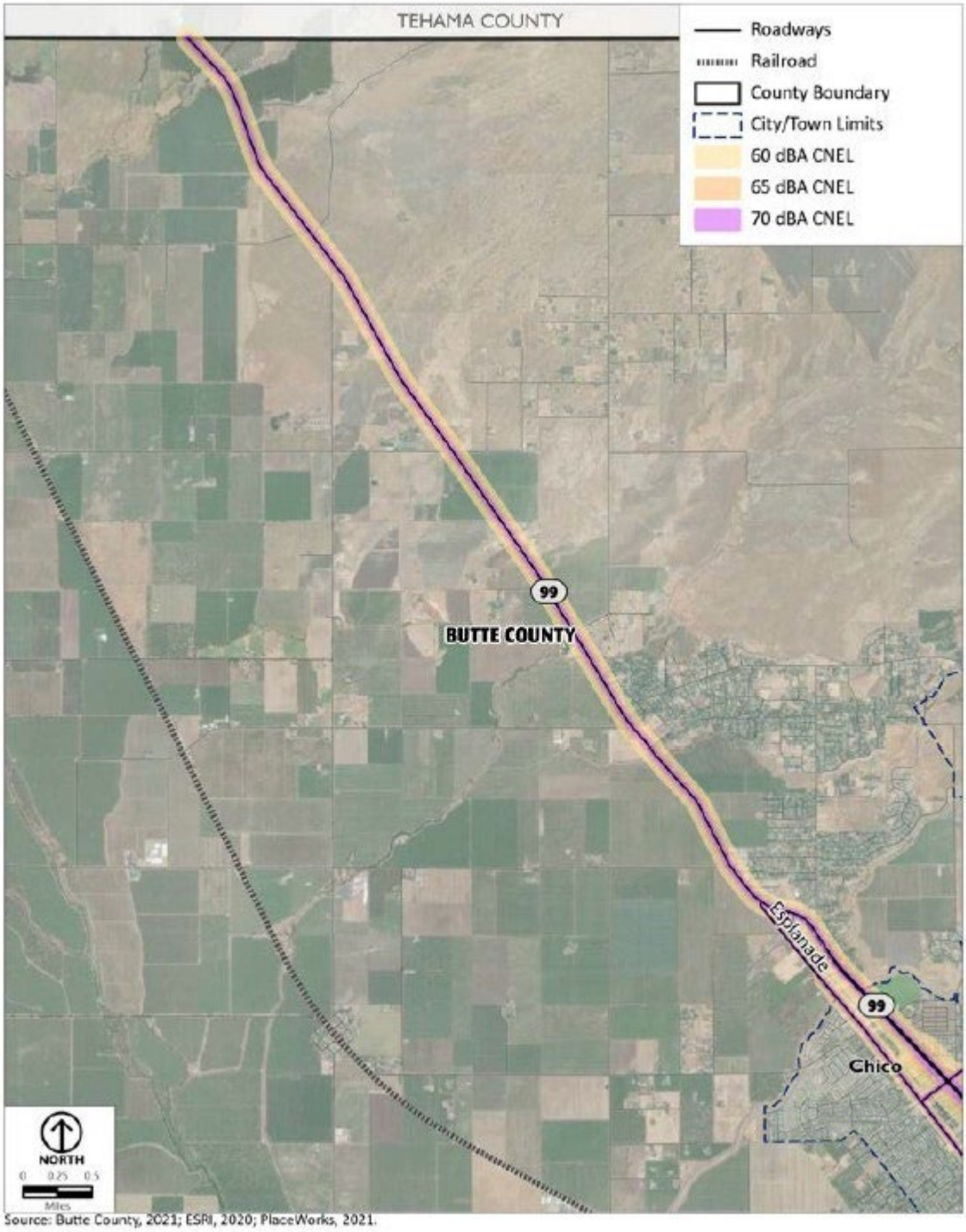
APPENDIX C CURRENT AND PROJECTED NOISE CONTOUR MAPS

EXISTING TRAFFIC NOISE CONTOURS (MAP INDEX)



EXISTING TRAFFIC NOISE CONTOURS (MAP 1)

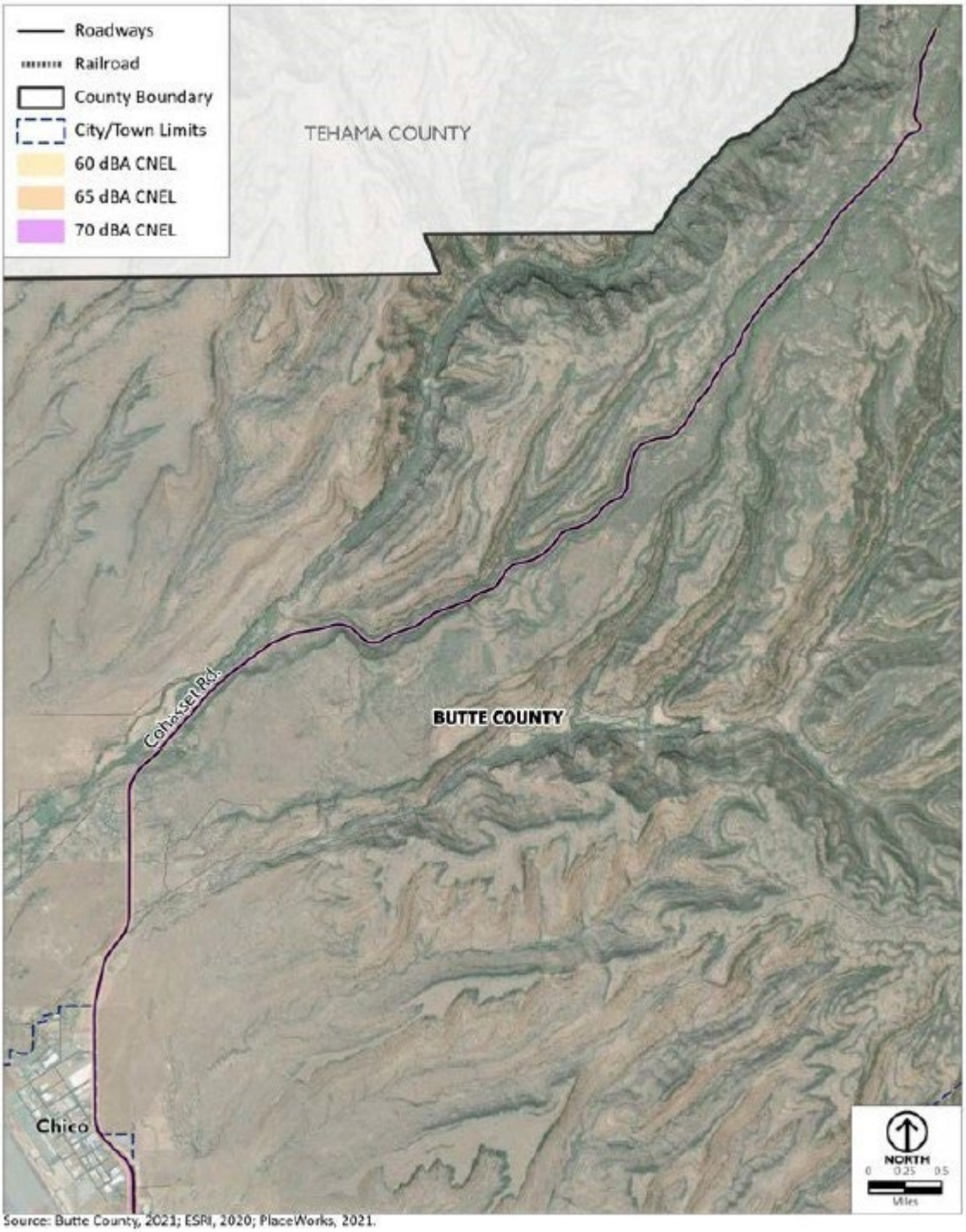
BUTTE COUNTY
GENERAL PLAN 2040
APPENDIX C



Source: Butte County, 2021; ESRI, 2020; PlaceWorks, 2021.

EXISTING TRAFFIC NOISE CONTOURS (MAP 2)

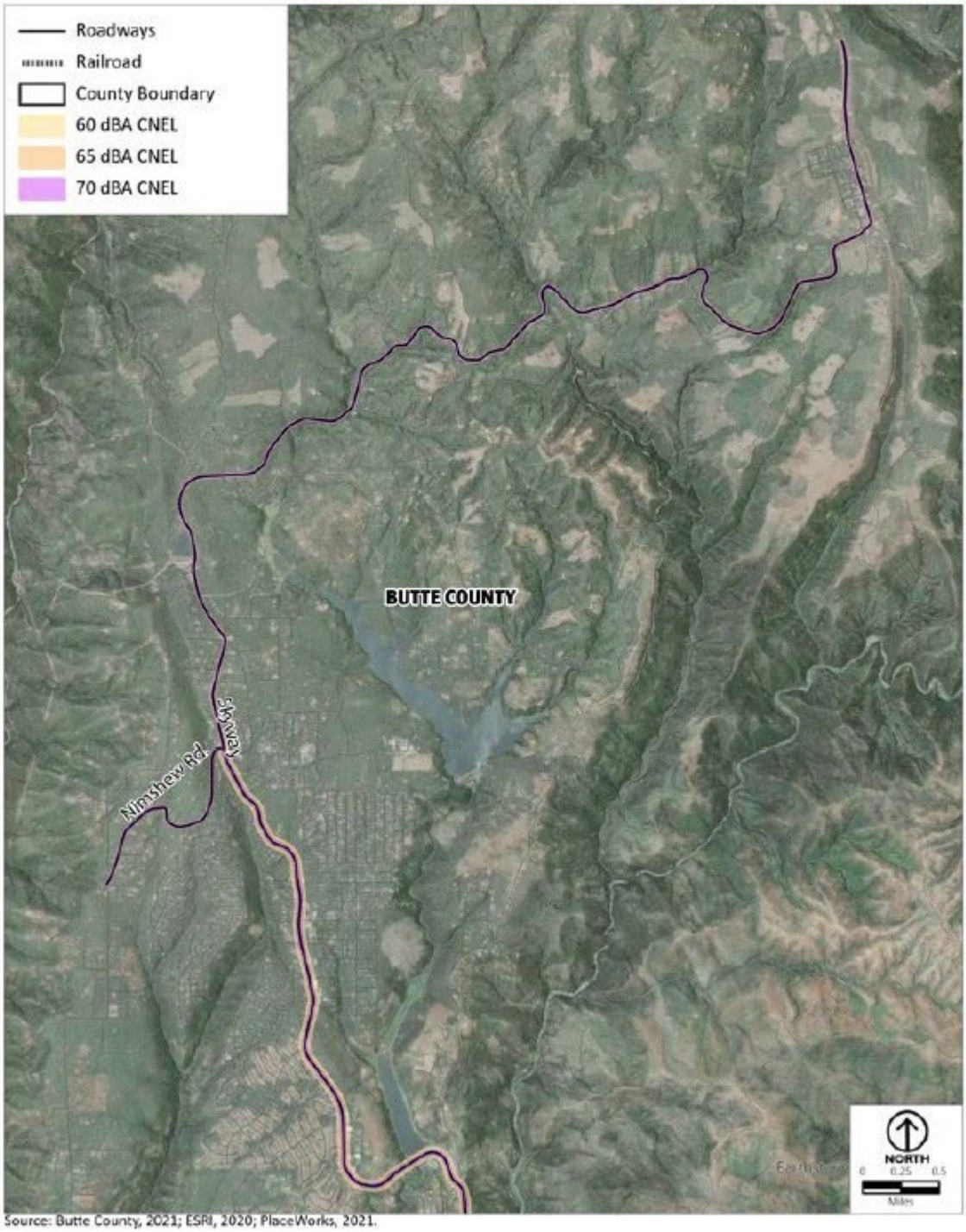
BUTTE COUNTY
GENERAL PLAN 2040
APPENDIX C



Source: Butte County, 2021; ESRI, 2020; PlaceWorks, 2021.

EXISTING TRAFFIC NOISE CONTOURS (MAP 3)

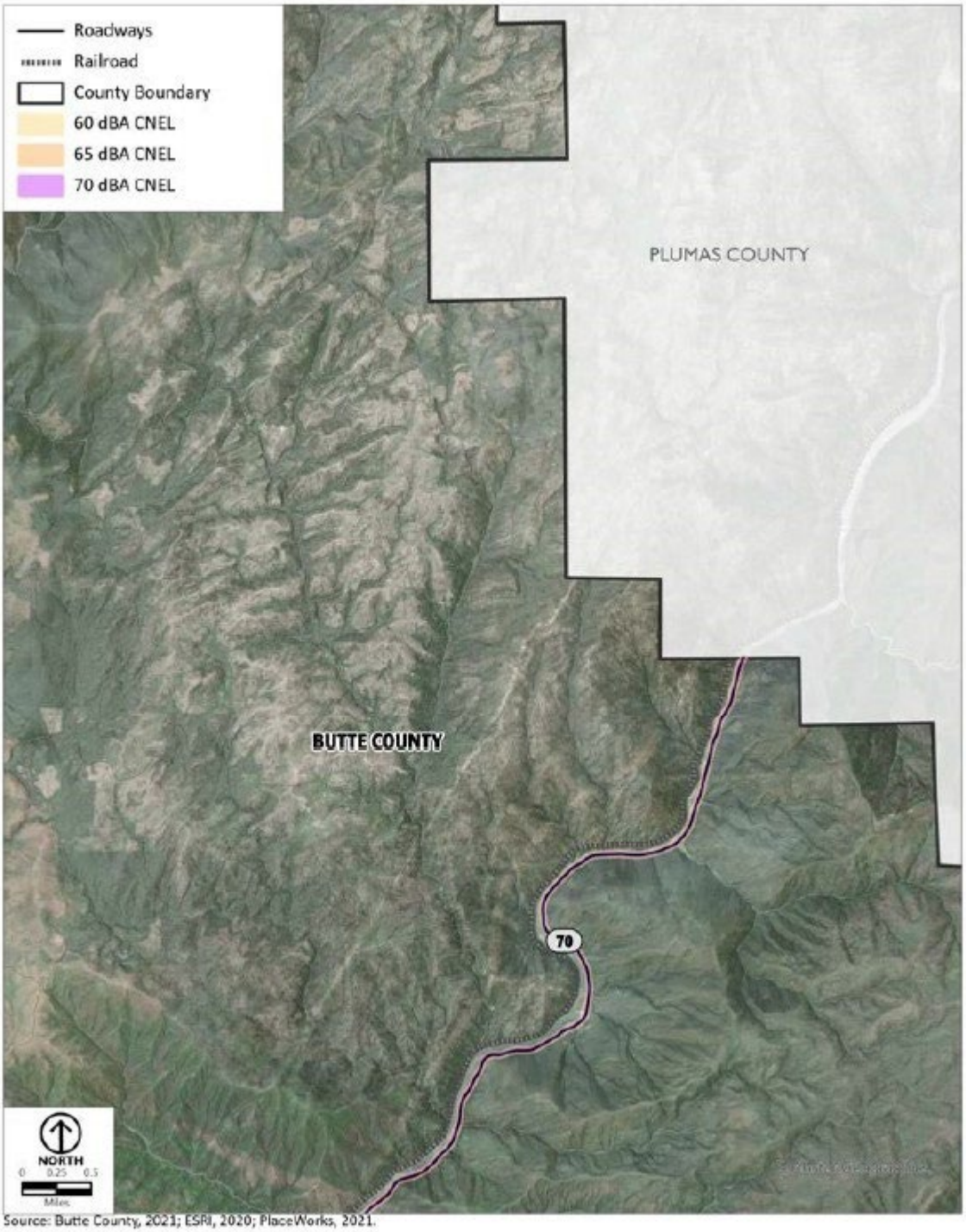
BUTTE COUNTY
GENERAL PLAN 2040
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Source: Butte County, 2021; ESRI, 2020; PlaceWorks, 2021.

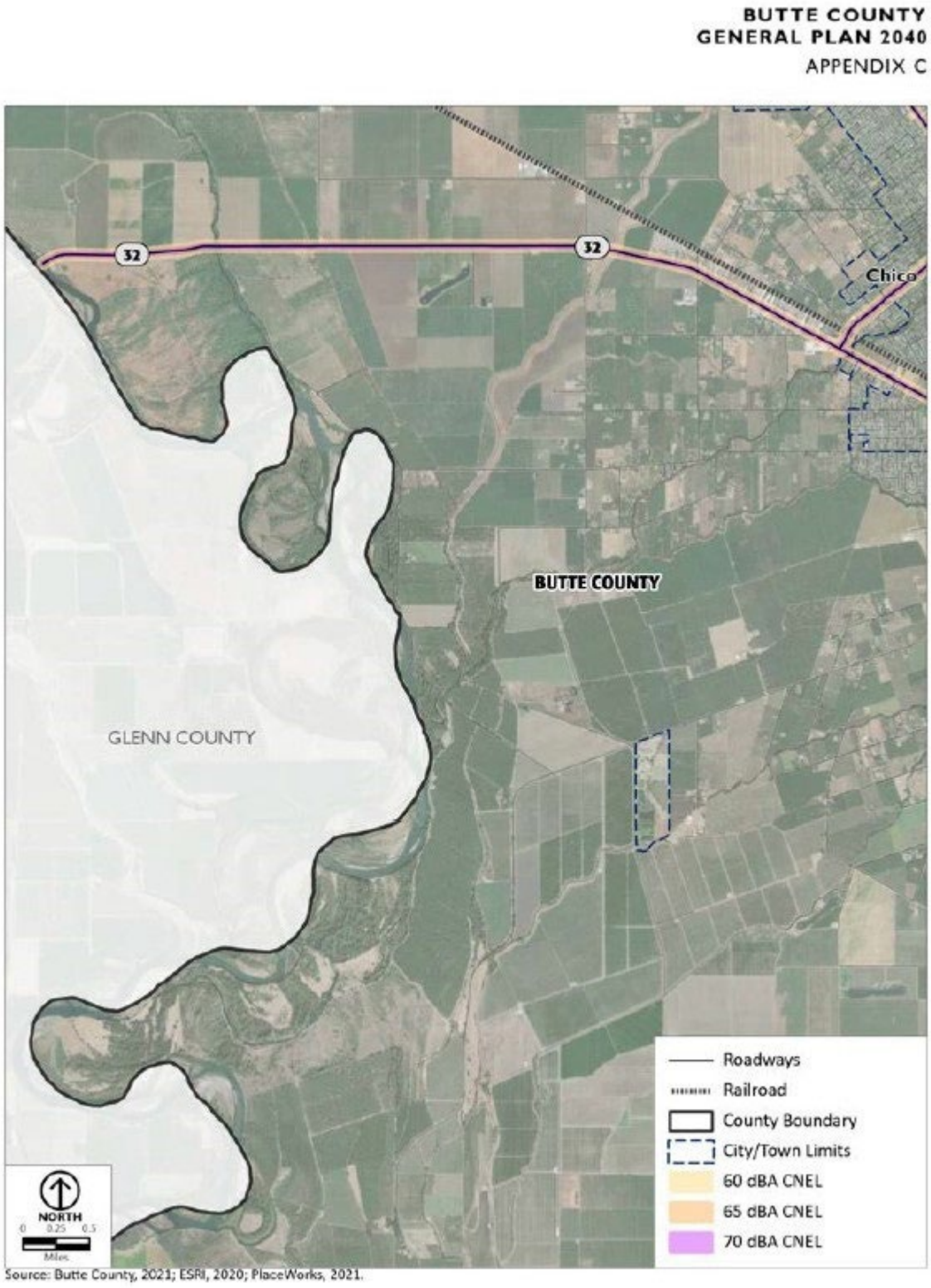
EXISTING TRAFFIC NOISE CONTOURS (MAP 4)

BUTTE COUNTY
GENERAL PLAN 2040
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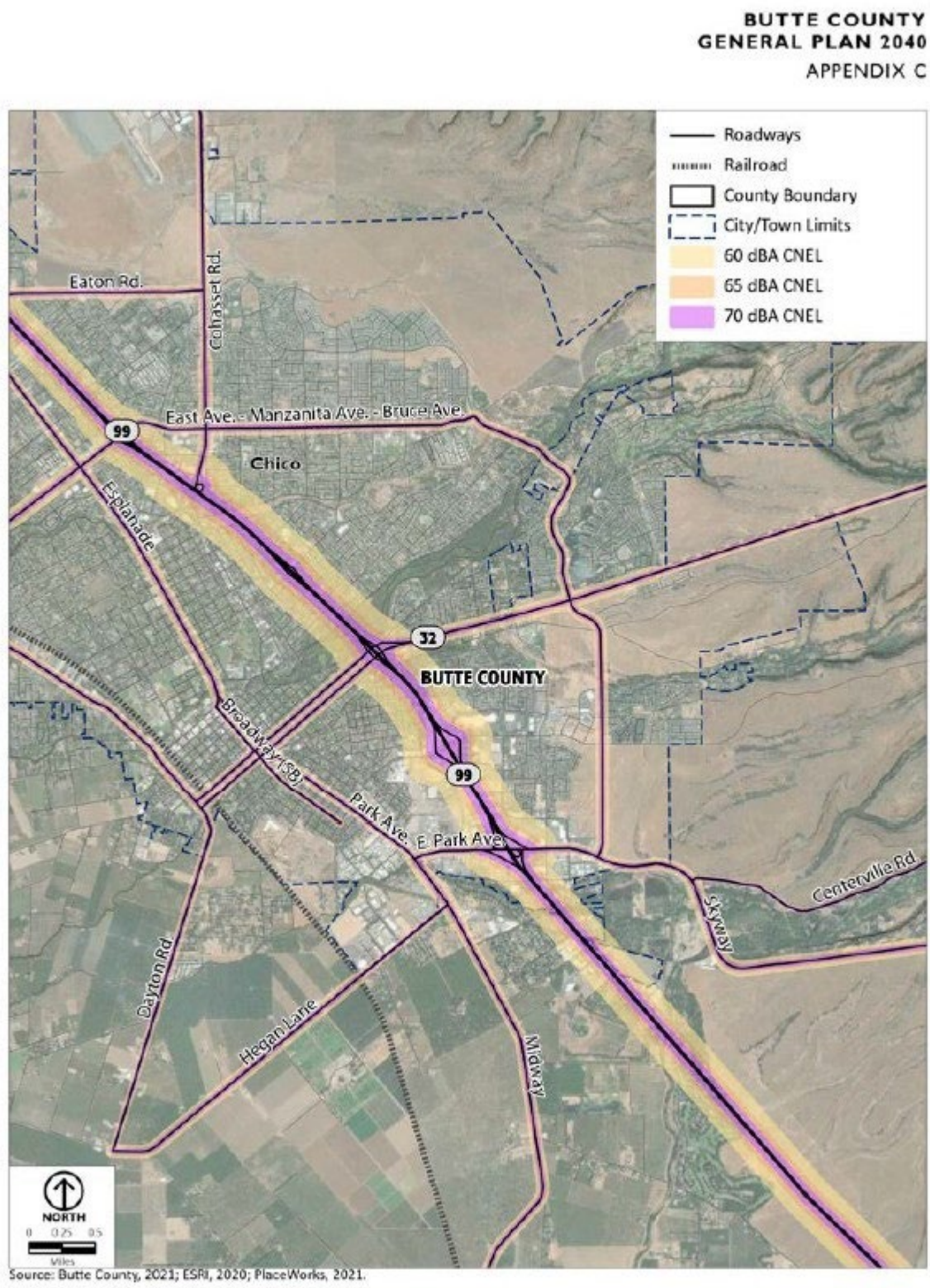


Source: Butte County, 2021; ESRI, 2020; PlaceWorks, 2021.

EXISTING TRAFFIC NOISE CONTOURS (MAP 5)

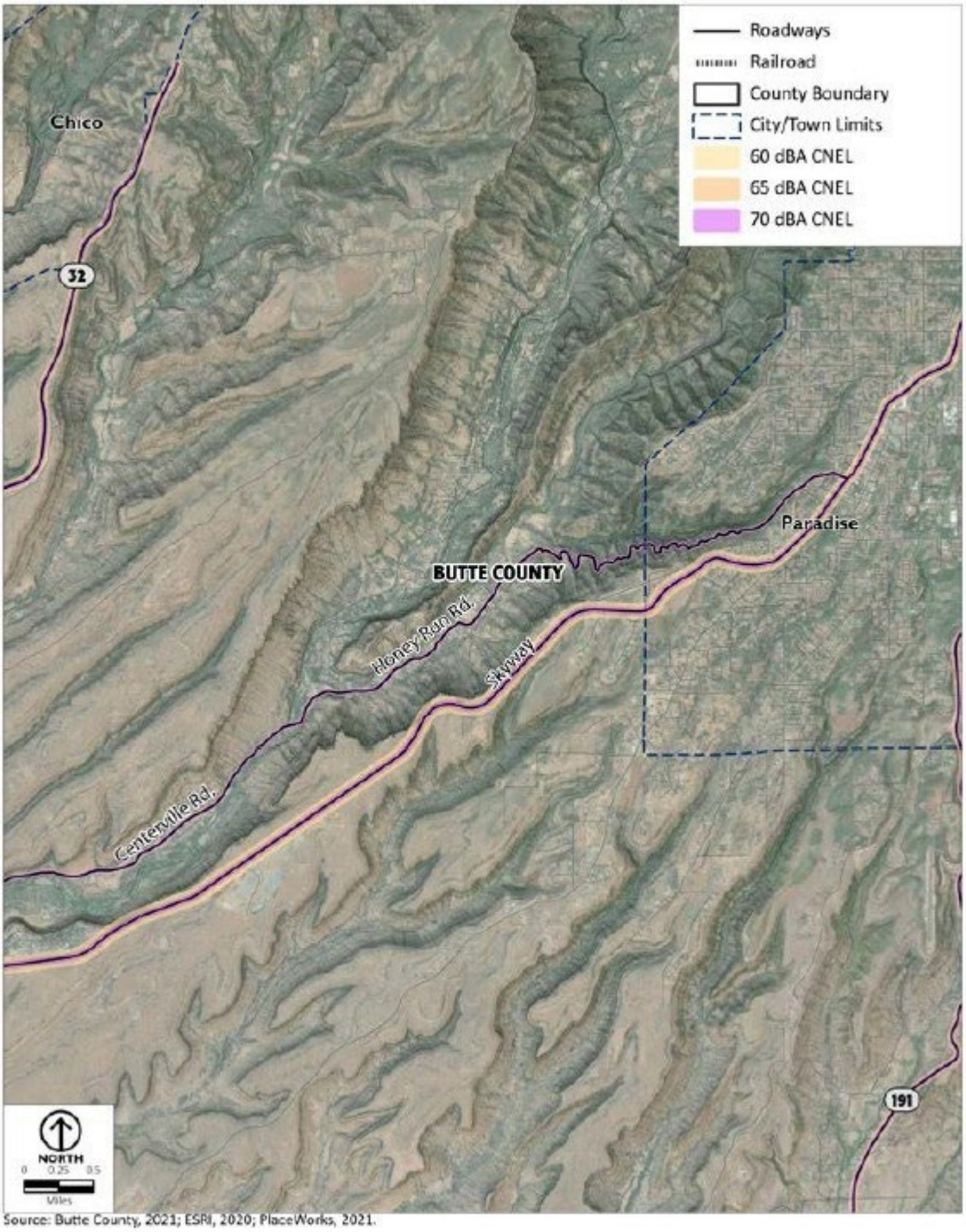


EXISTING TRAFFIC NOISE CONTOURS (MAP 6)



EXISTING TRAFFIC NOISE CONTOURS (MAP 7)

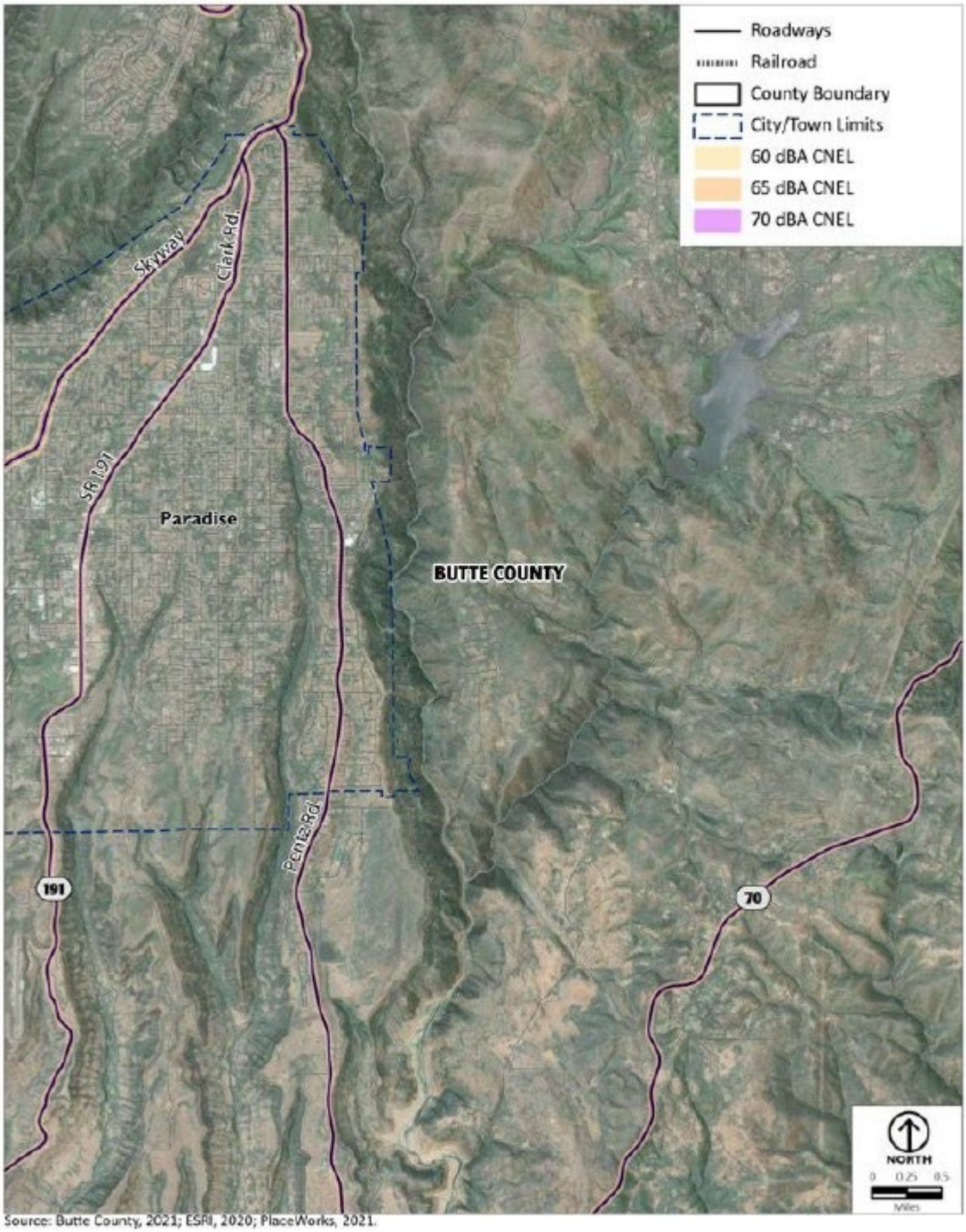
BUTTE COUNTY
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Source: Butte County, 2021; ESRI, 2020; PlaceWorks, 2021.

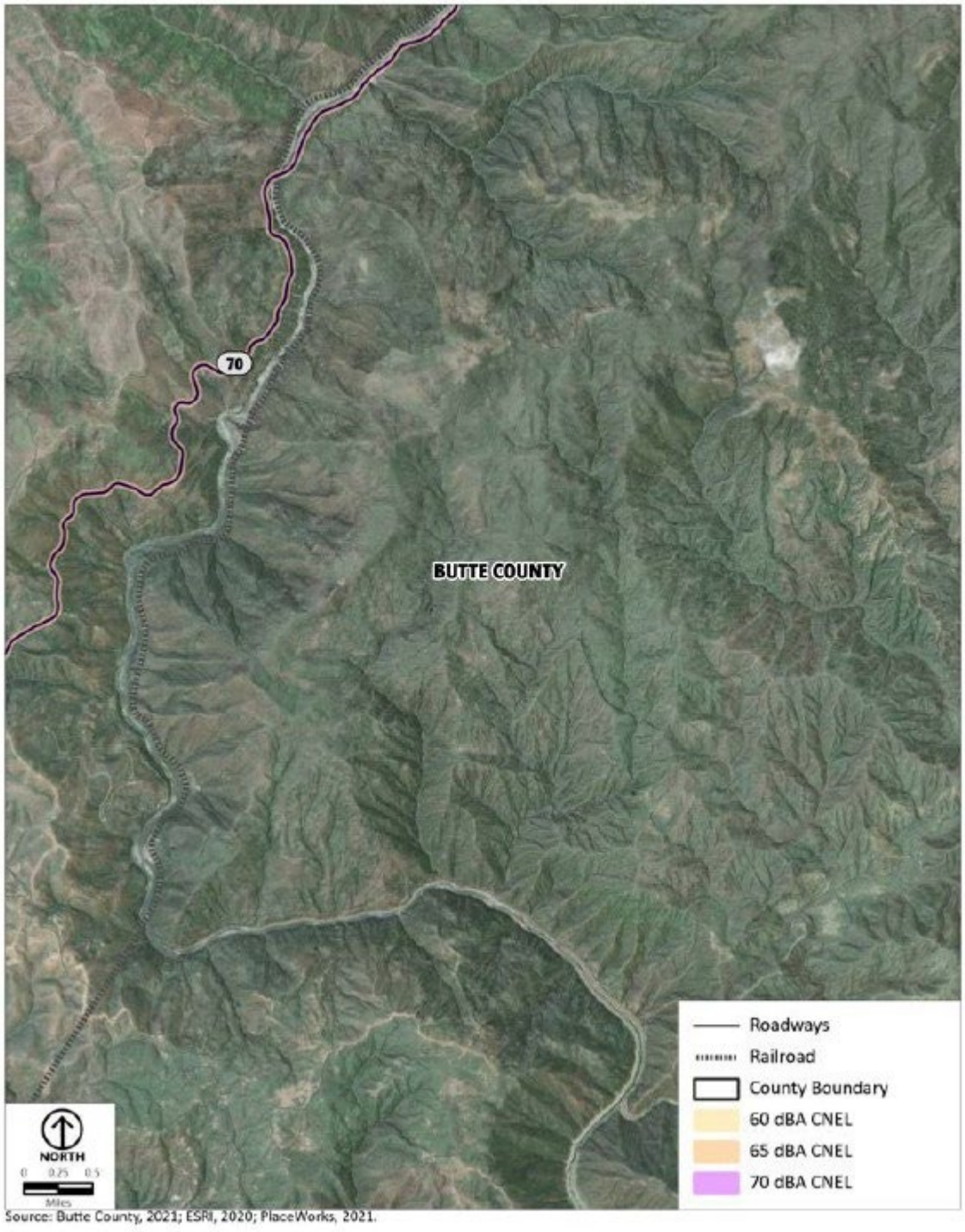
EXISTING TRAFFIC NOISE CONTOURS (MAP 8)

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Source: Butte County, 2021; ESRI, 2020; PlaceWorks, 2021.

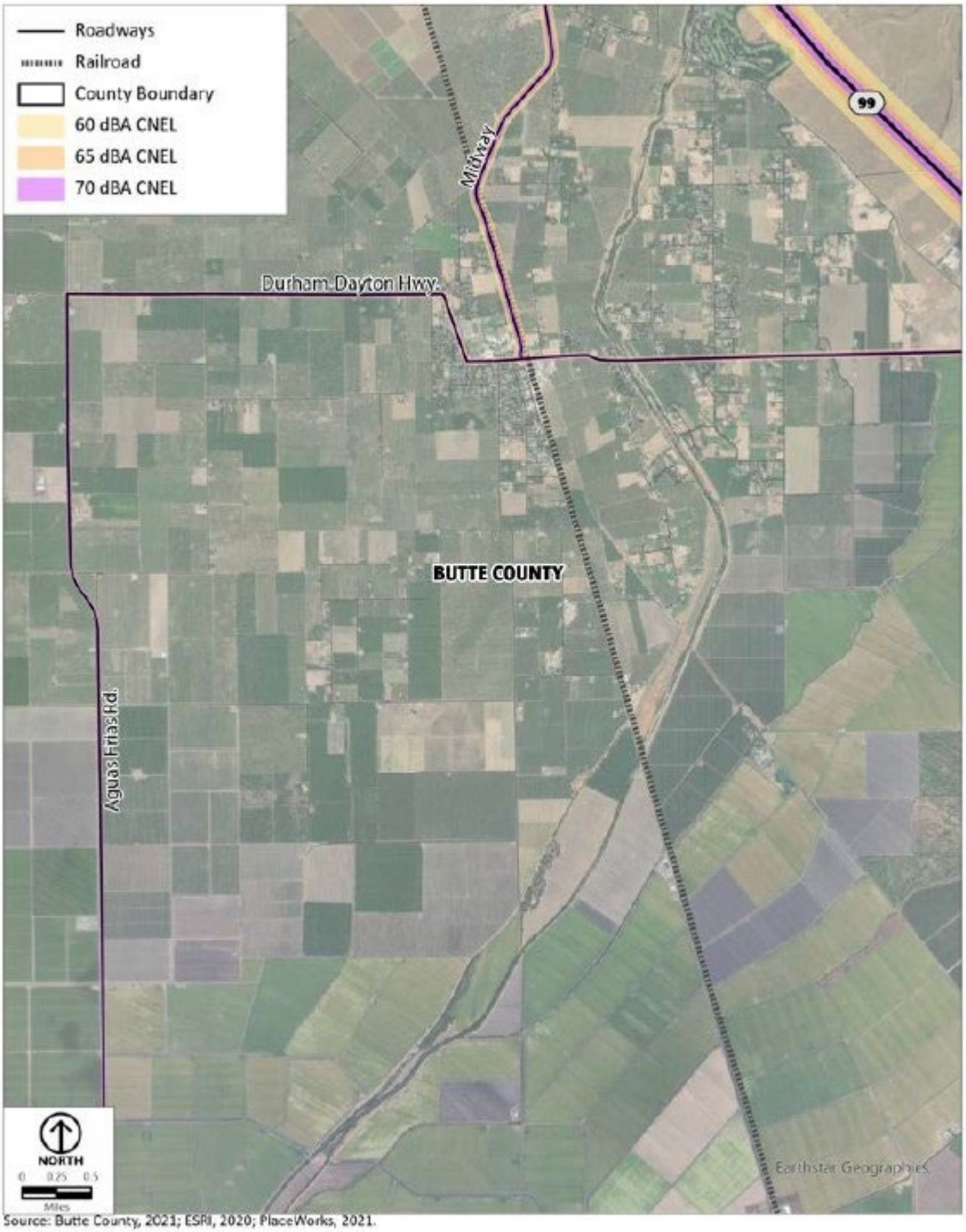
EXISTING TRAFFIC NOISE CONTOURS (MAP 9)



Source: Butte County, 2021; ESRI, 2020; PlaceWorks, 2021.

EXISTING TRAFFIC NOISE CONTOURS (MAP 10)

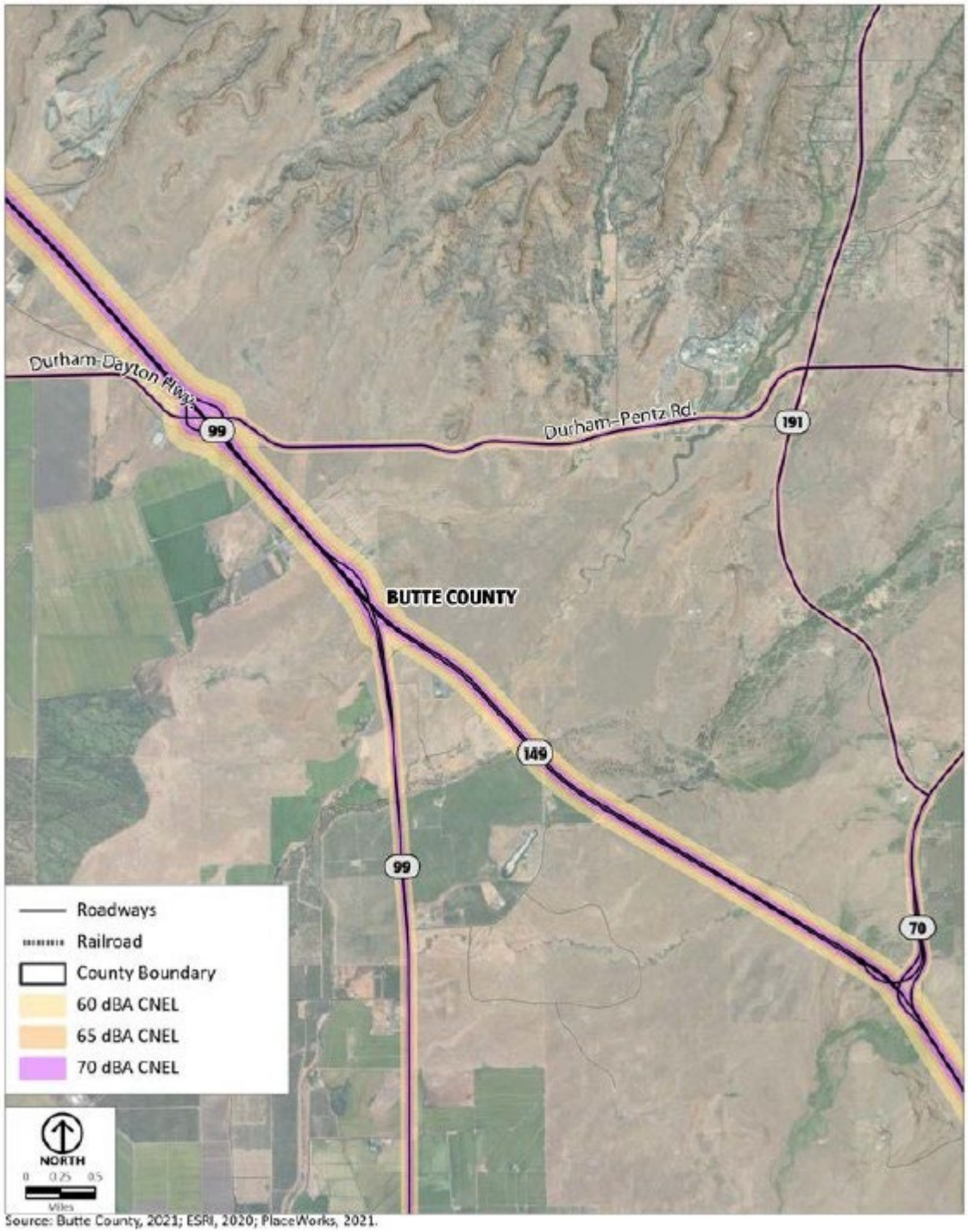
BUTTE COUNTY
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Source: Butte County, 2021; ESRI, 2020; PlaceWorks, 2021.

EXISTING TRAFFIC NOISE CONTOURS (MAP 11)

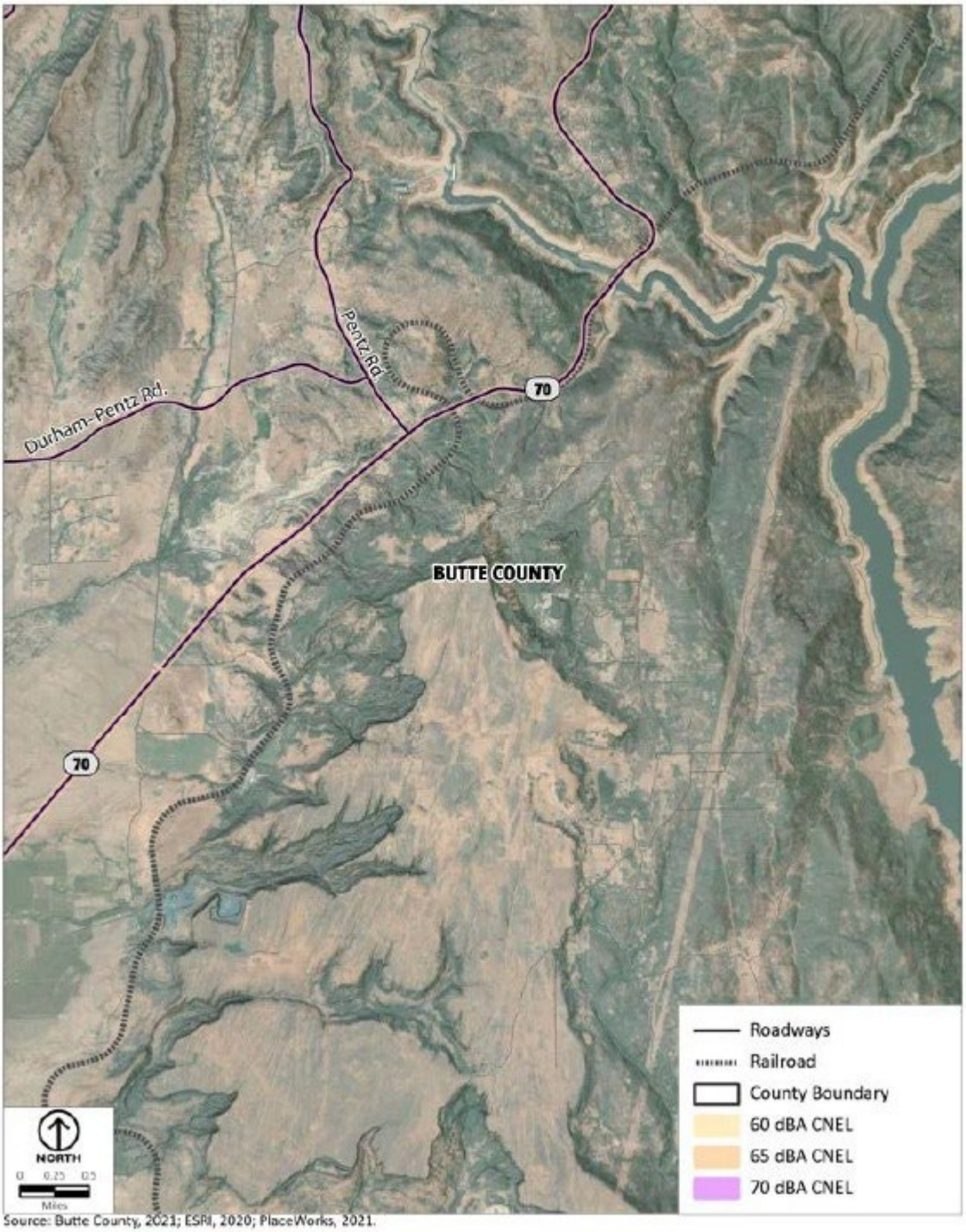
BUTTE COUNTY
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Source: Butte County, 2021; ESRI, 2020; PlaceWorks, 2021.

EXISTING TRAFFIC NOISE CONTOURS (MAP 12)

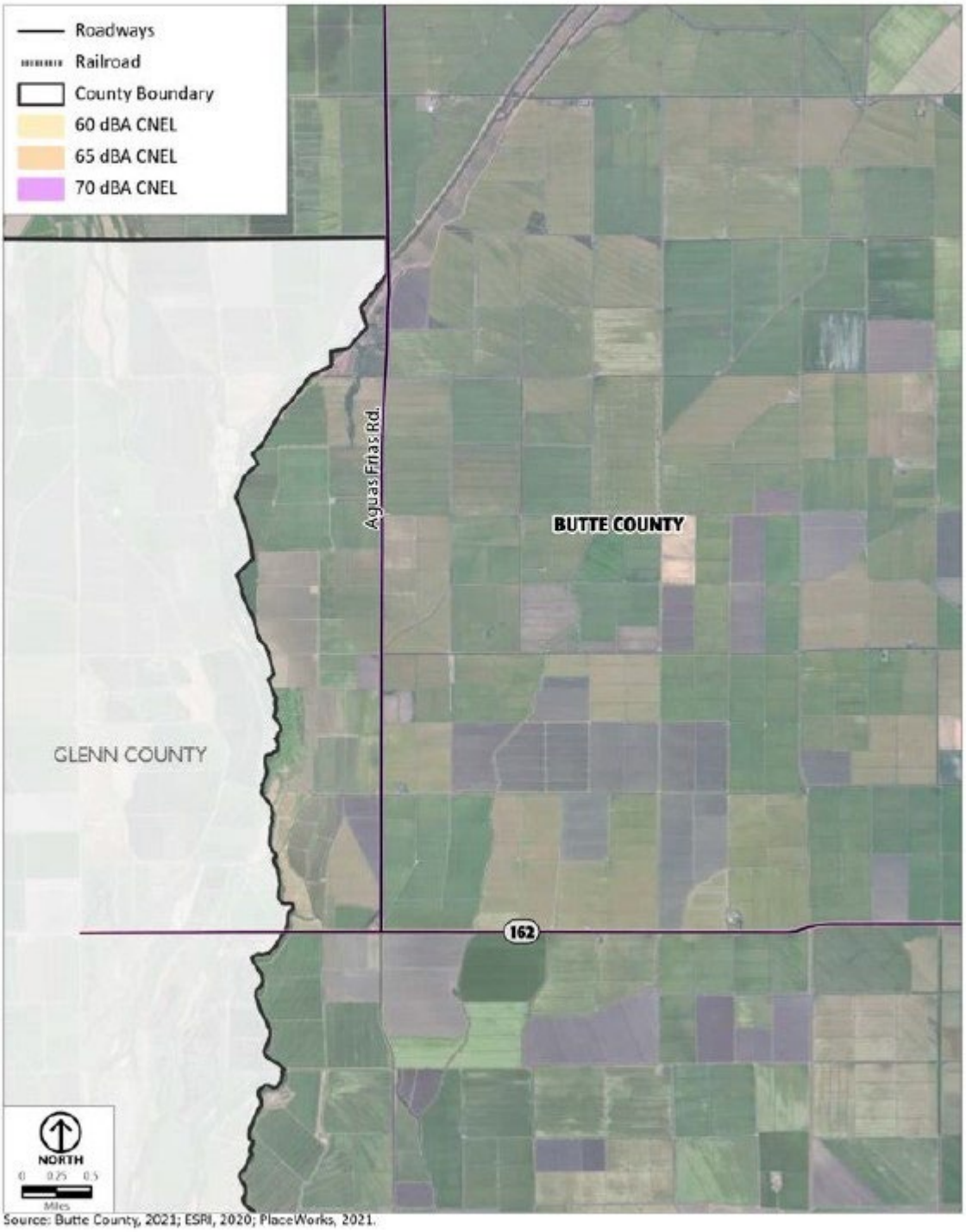
BUTTE COUNTY
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Source: Butte County, 2021; ESRI, 2020; PlaceWorks, 2021.

EXISTING TRAFFIC NOISE CONTOURS (MAP 13)

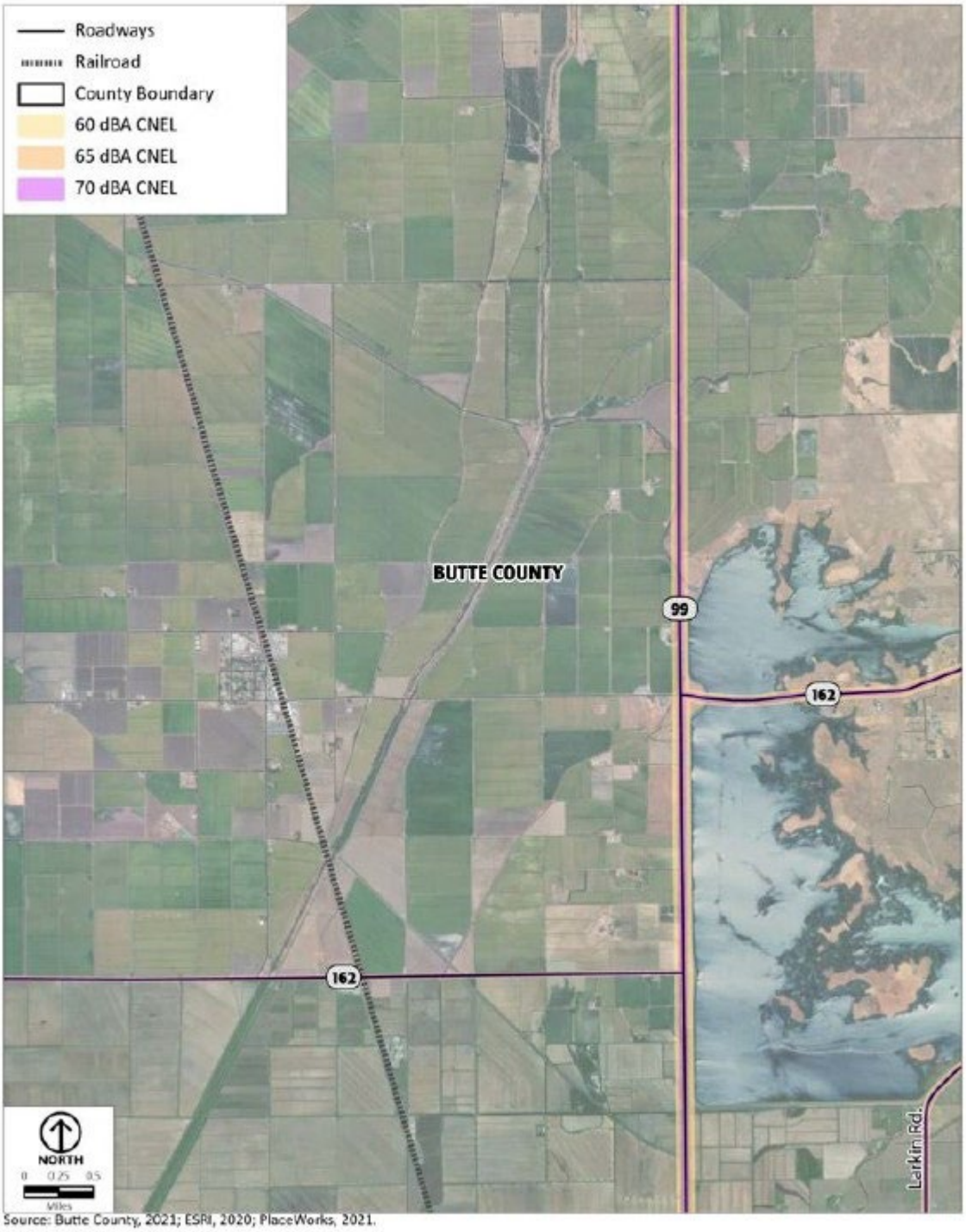
BUTTE COUNTY
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Source: Butte County, 2021; ESRI, 2020; PlaceWorks, 2021.

EXISTING TRAFFIC NOISE CONTOURS (MAP 14)

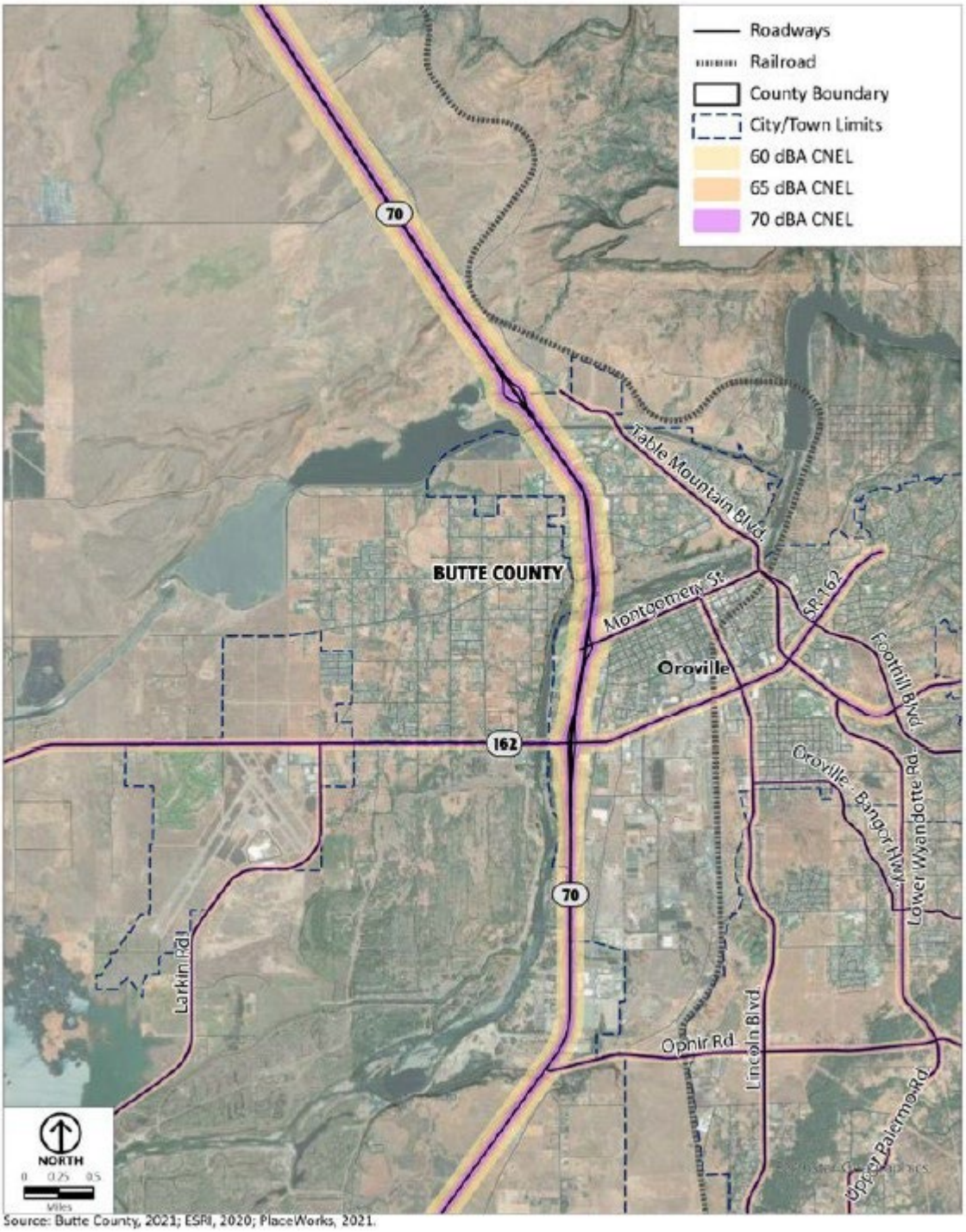
BUTTE COUNTY
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Source: Butte County, 2021; ESRI, 2020; PlaceWorks, 2021.

EXISTING TRAFFIC NOISE CONTOURS (MAP 15)

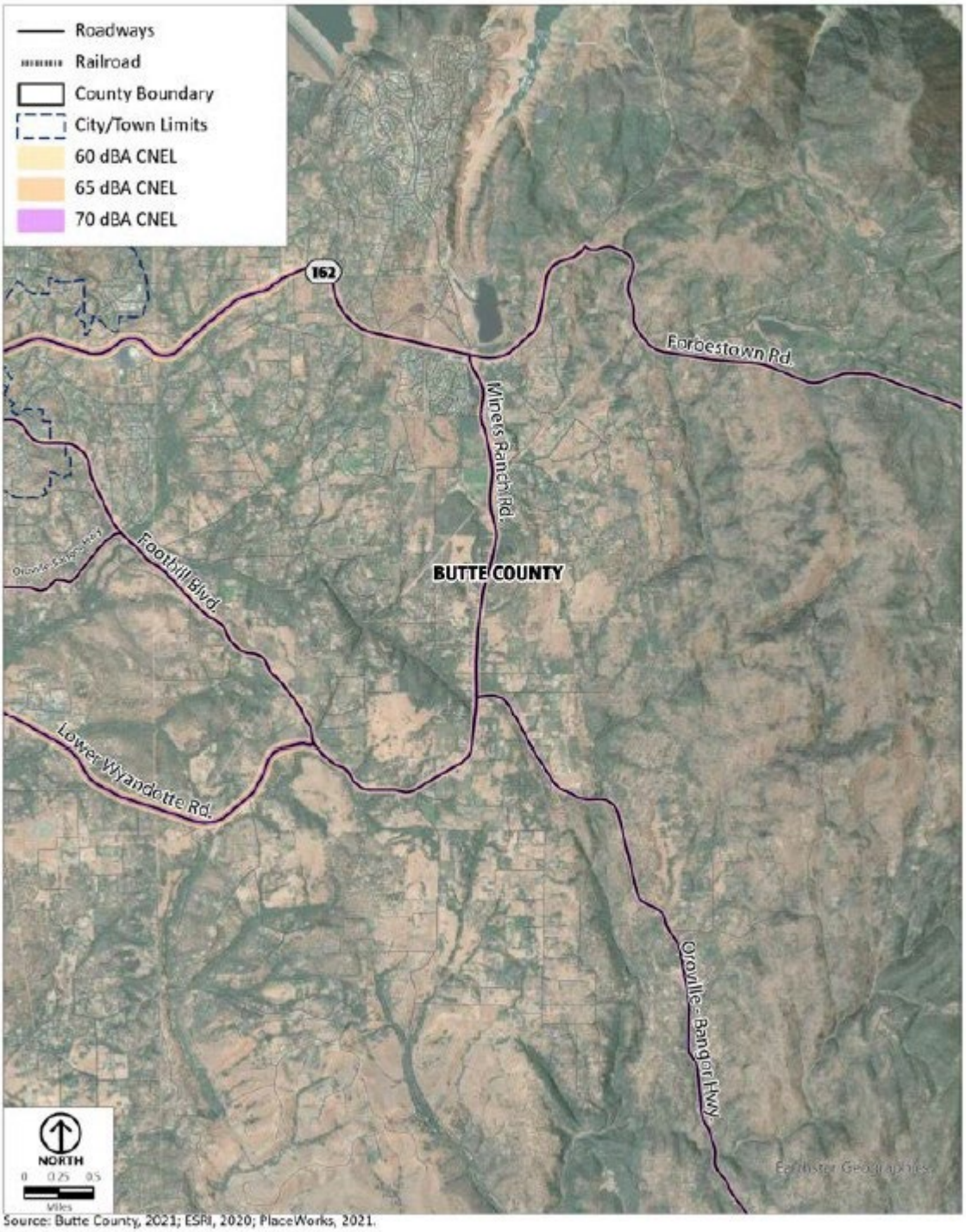
BUTTE COUNTY
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APPENDIX C



Source: Butte County, 2021; ESRI, 2020; PlaceWorks, 2021.

EXISTING TRAFFIC NOISE CONTOURS (MAP 16)

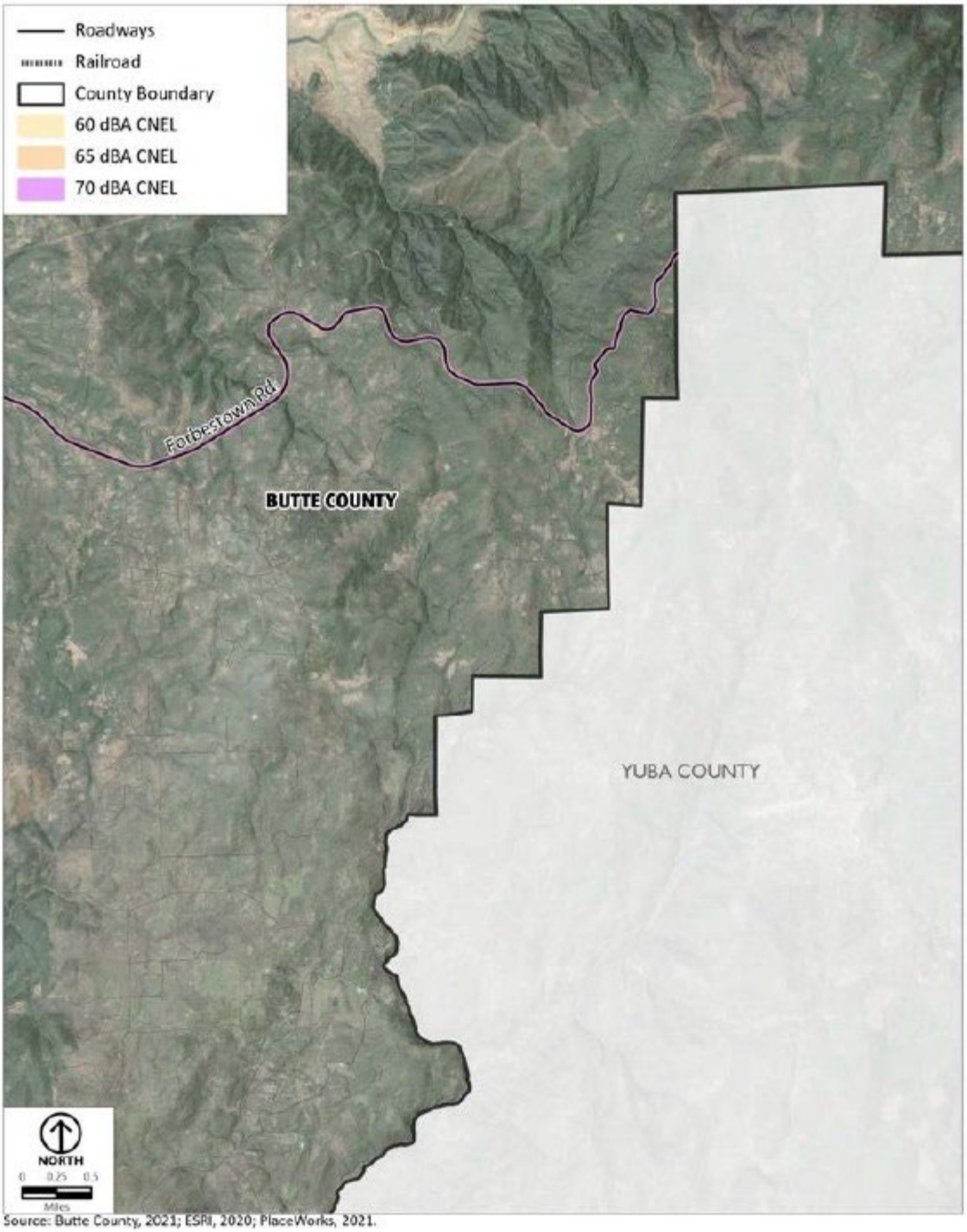
BUTTE COUNTY
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Source: Butte County, 2021; ESRI, 2020; PlaceWorks, 2021.

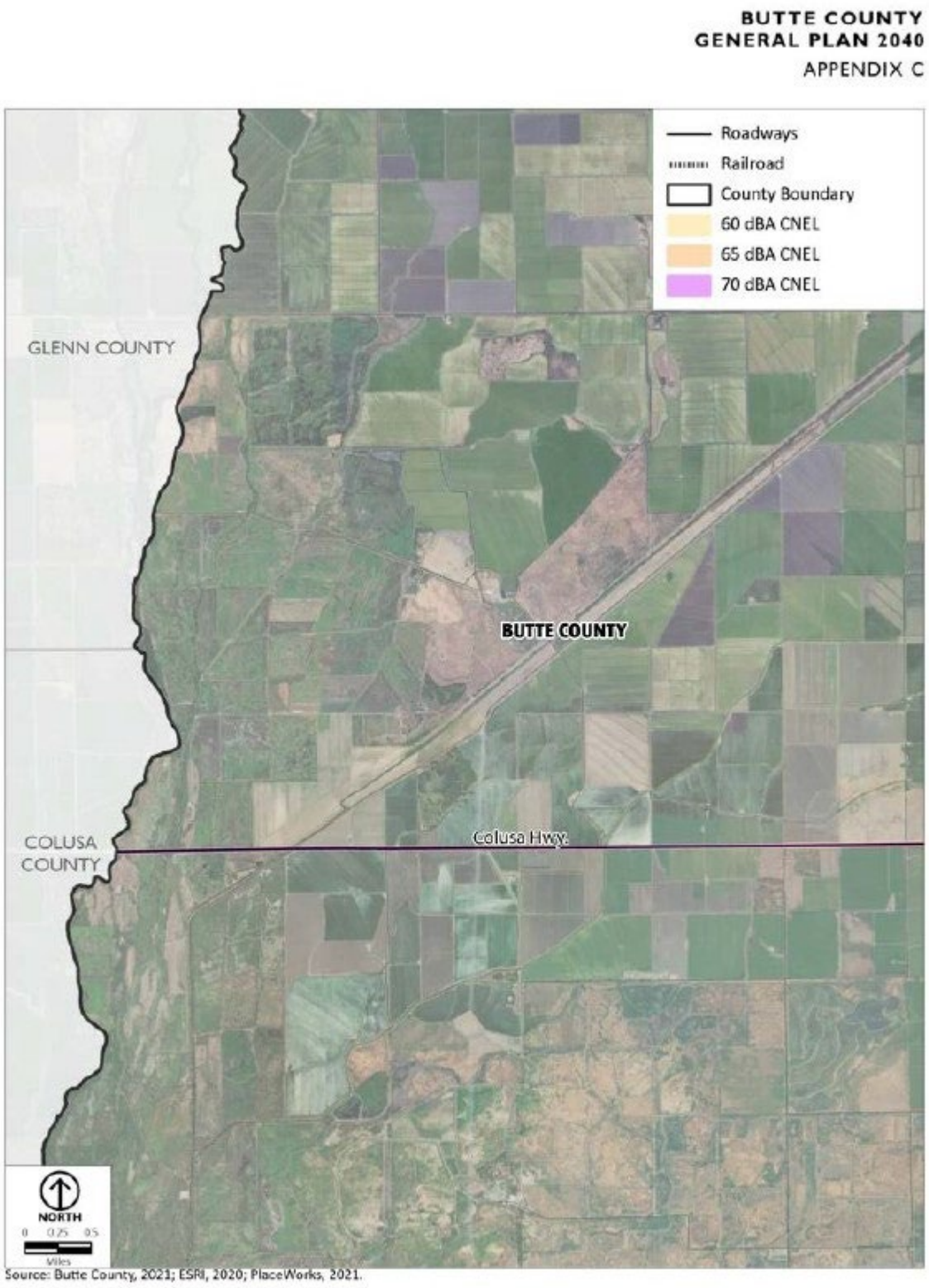
EXISTING TRAFFIC NOISE CONTOURS (MAP 17)

BUTTE COUNTY
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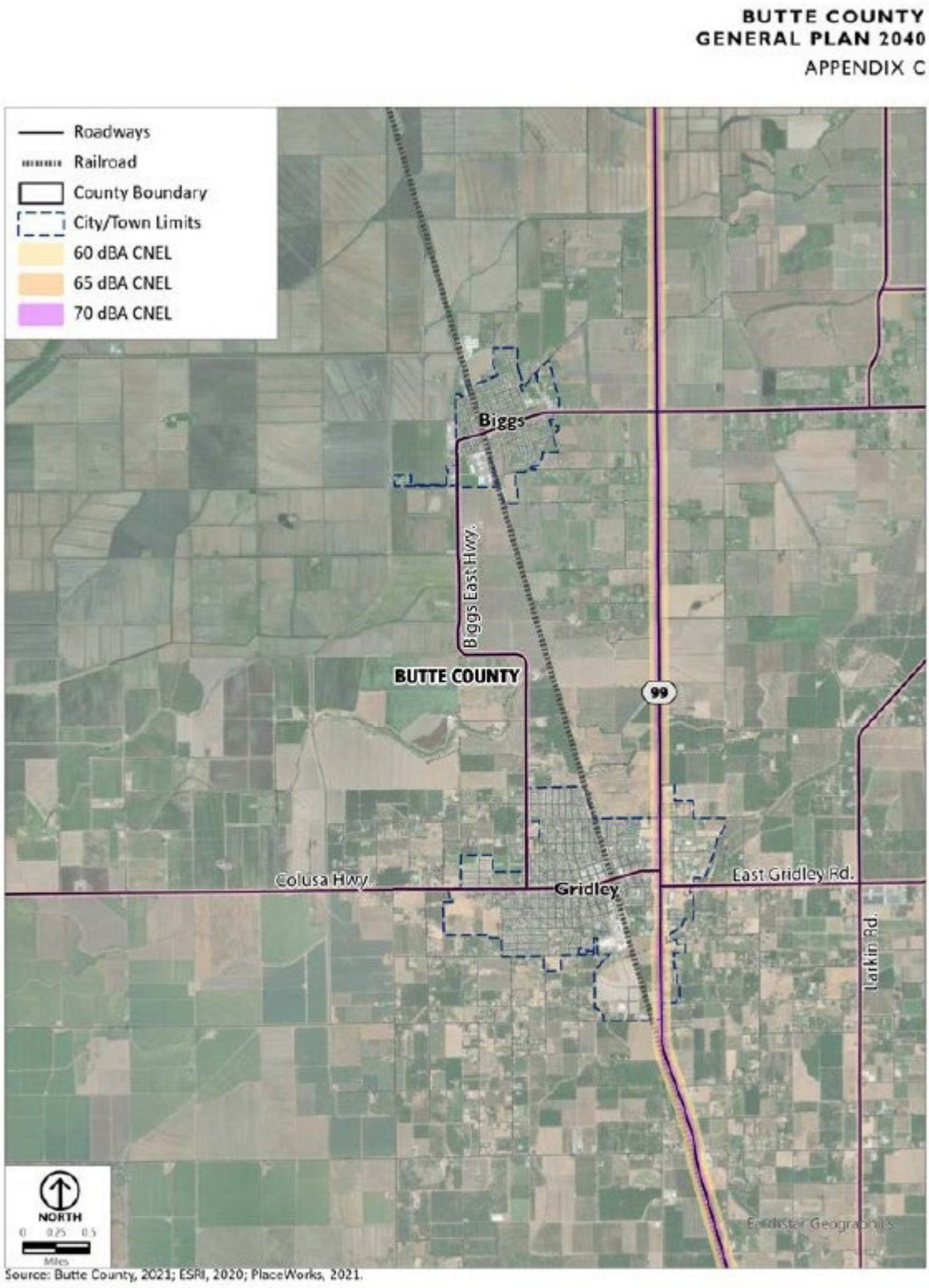


Source: Butte County, 2021; ESRI, 2020; PlaceWorks, 2021.

EXISTING TRAFFIC NOISE CONTOURS (MAP 18)

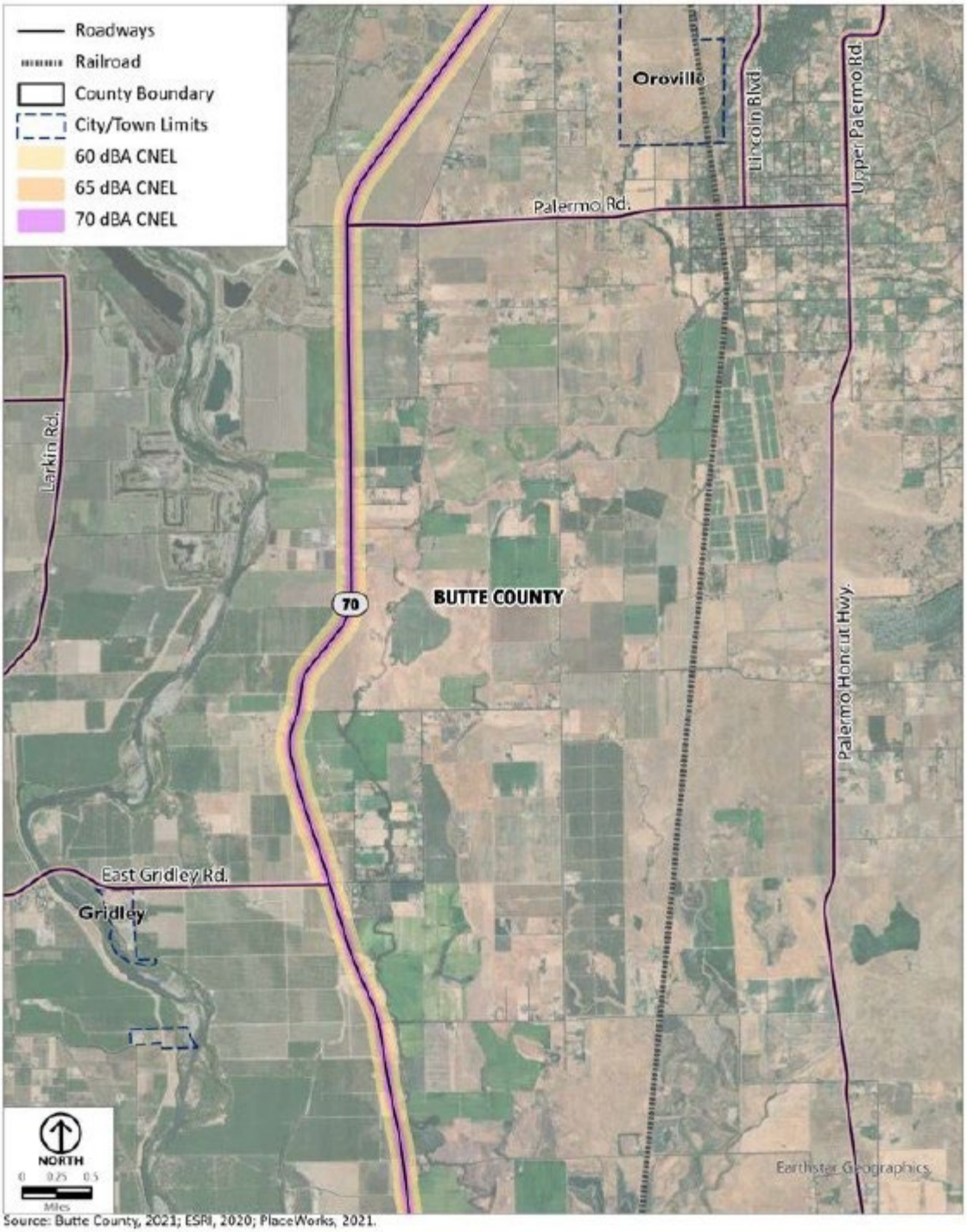


EXISTING TRAFFIC NOISE CONTOURS (MAP 19)



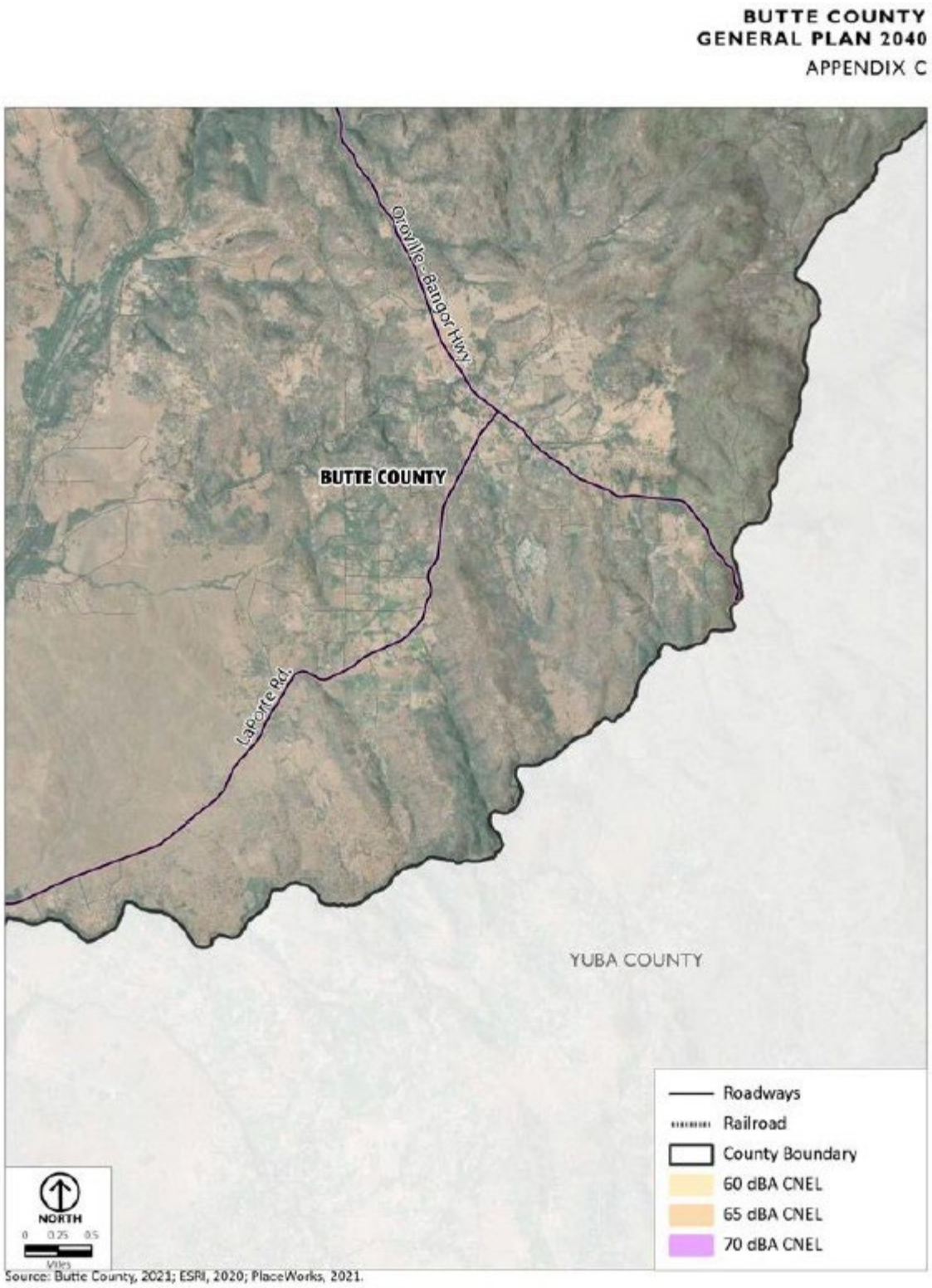
EXISTING TRAFFIC NOISE CONTOURS (MAP 20)

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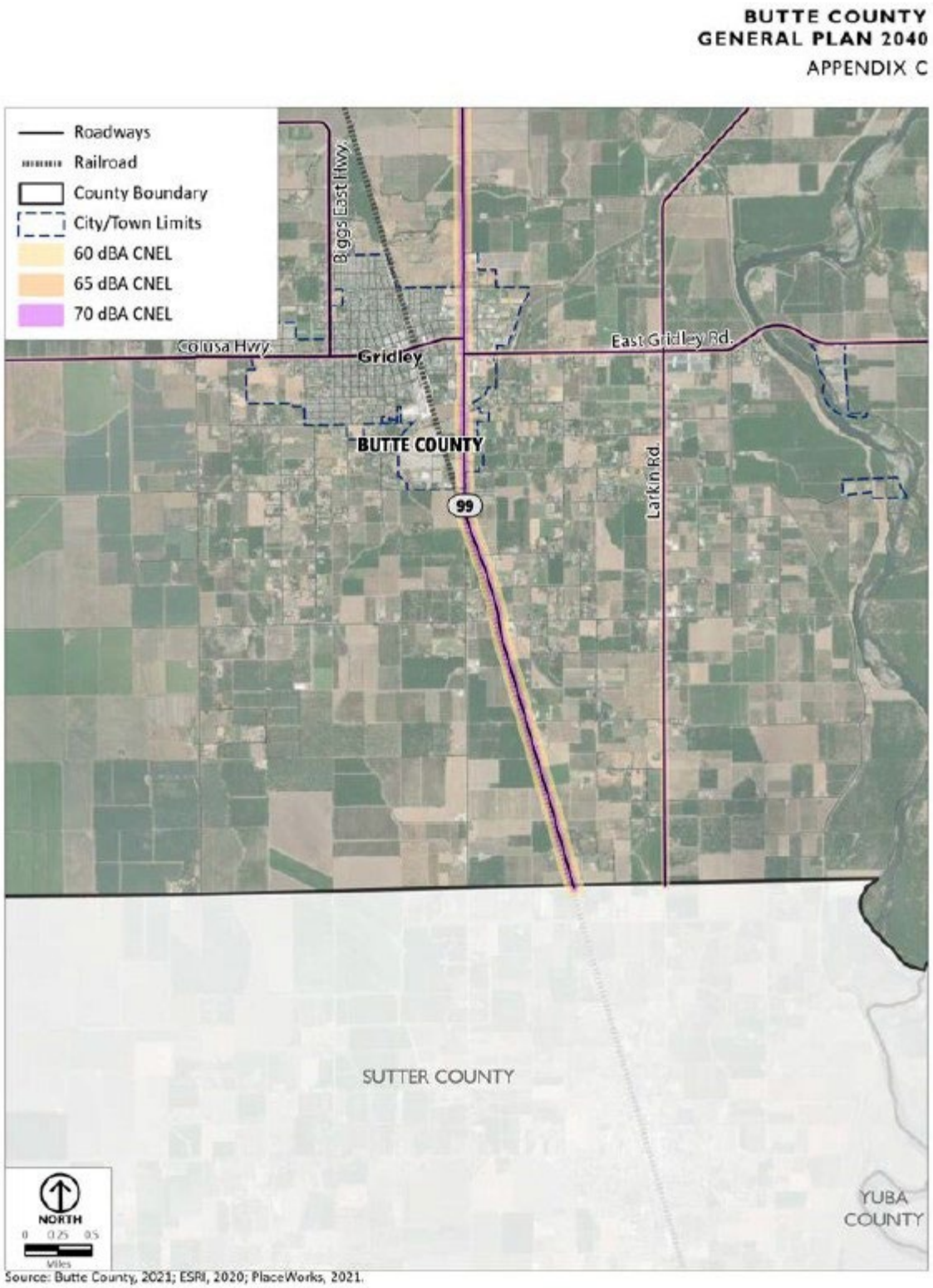
Source: Butte County, 2021; ESRI, 2020; PlaceWorks, 2021.

EXISTING TRAFFIC NOISE CONTOURS (MAP 21)

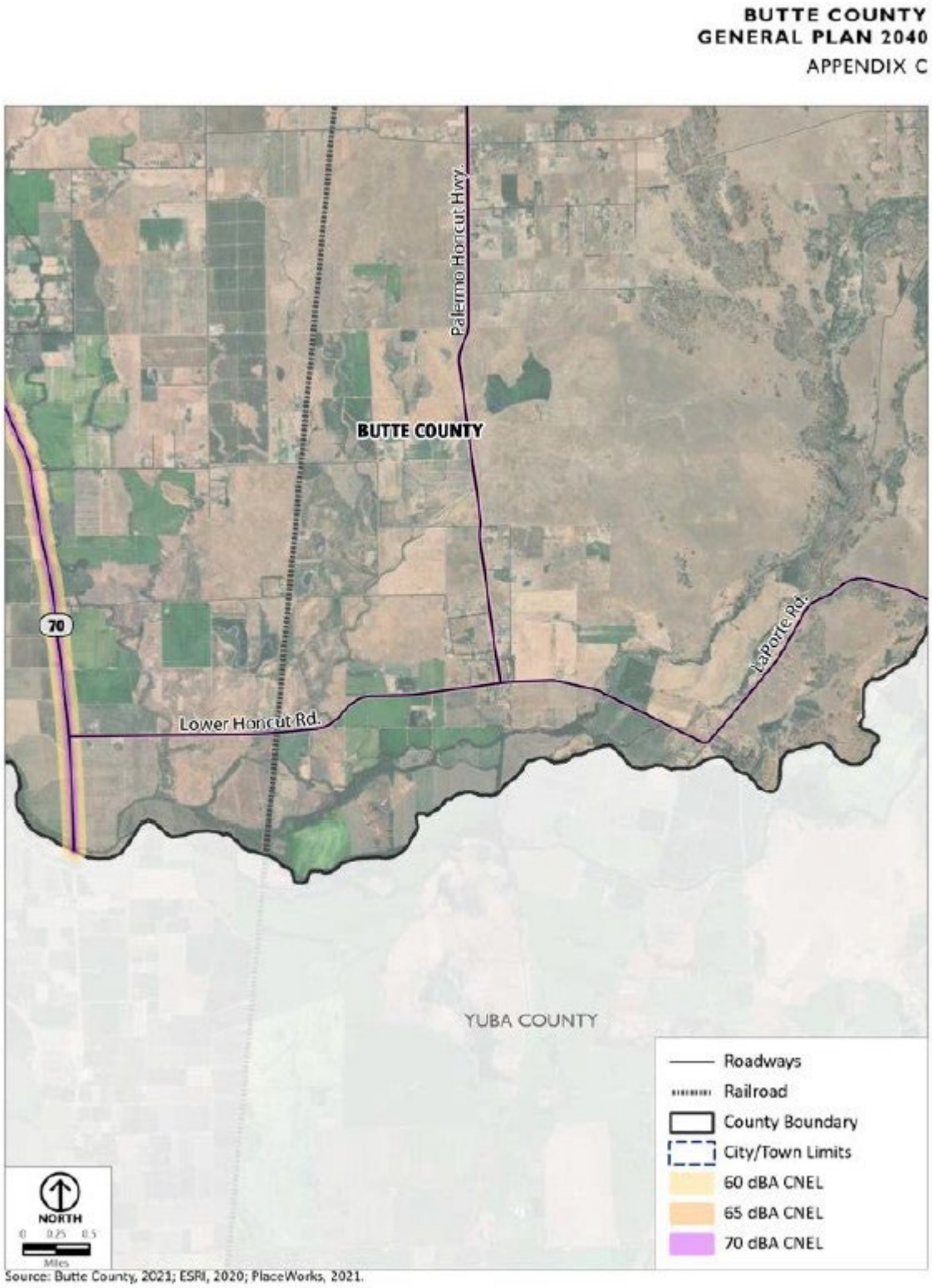


Source: Butte County, 2021; ESRI, 2020; PlaceWorks, 2021.

EXISTING TRAFFIC NOISE CONTOURS (MAP 22)

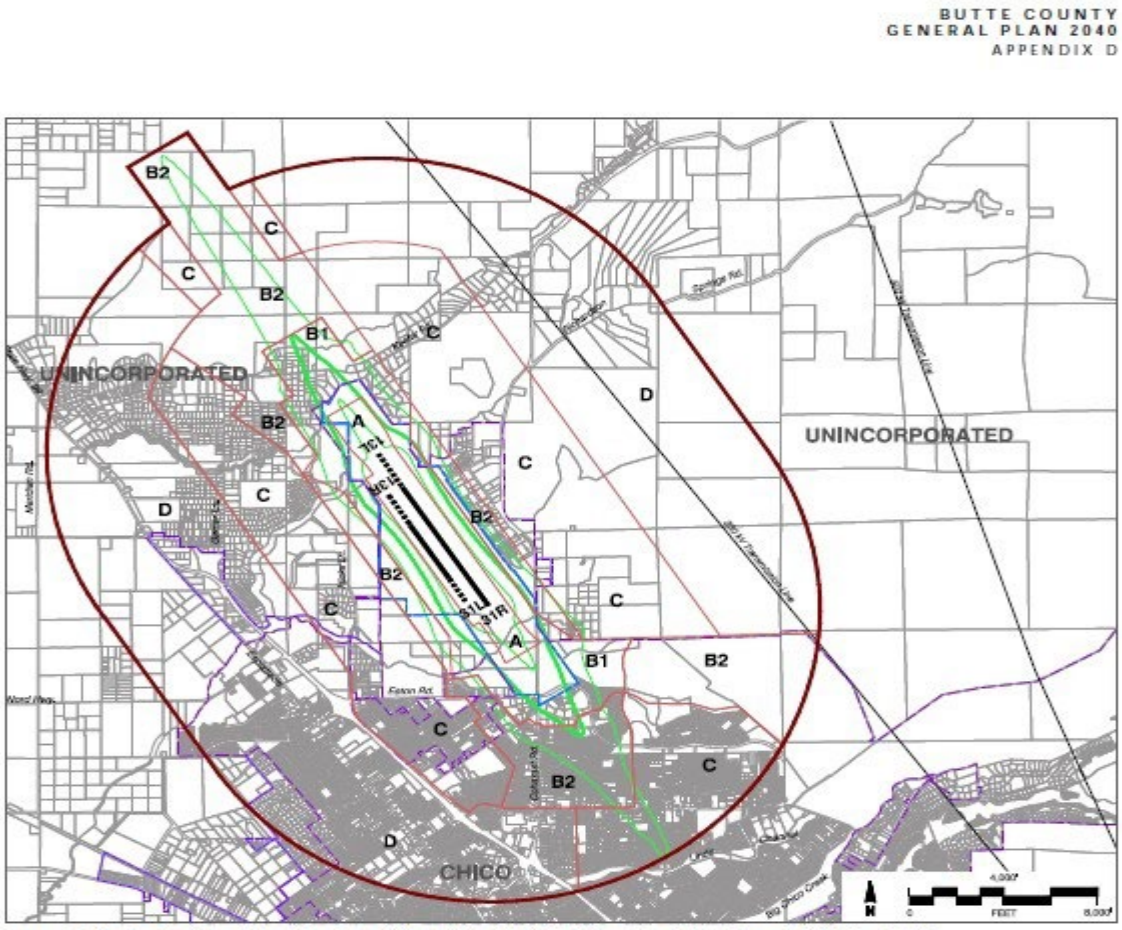


EXISTING TRAFFIC NOISE CONTOURS (MAP 23)



APPENDIX D AIRPORT NOISE CONTOUR MAPS FROM 2017 AIRPORT LAND USE COMPATIBILITY PLAN

Chico Municipal Airport Noise Contours



Source: Butte County Airport Land Use Commission, Chico Municipal Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan, 2017.

Legend

Boundary Lines

- Existing Runway
  - Runway 13L-31R (6,724' X 150')
  - Runway 13R-31L (3,000' X 60')
- Future Runway Extension
  - Runway 13L-31R (8,600' Ult. Total Length)
  - Runway 13R-31L (5,000' Ult. Total Length)
- Airport Property Line
- City Limits
- City Sphere of Influence
- Compatibility Zones
- Airport Influence Area

Noise Impacts – Expanded Forecast[1]

- 55 dB CNEL
- 60 dB CNEL
- 65 dB CNEL

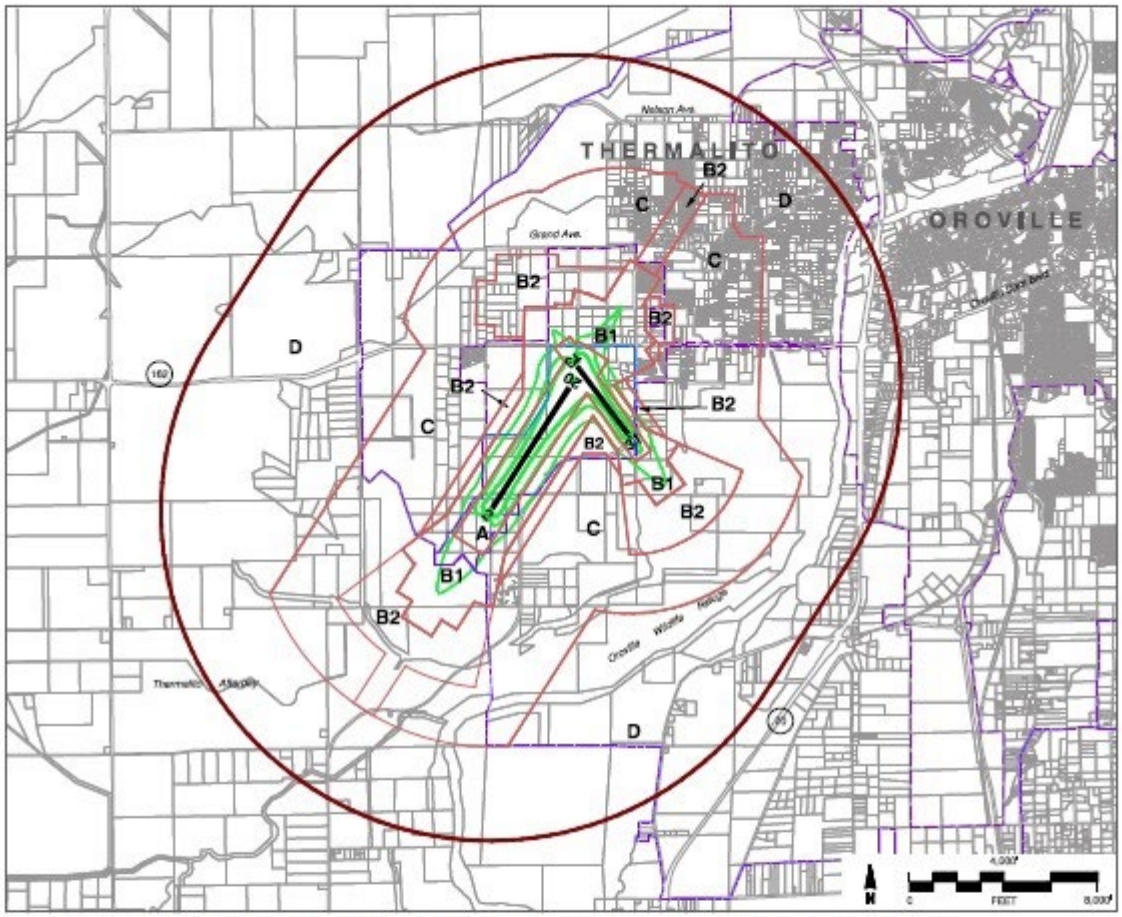
} 141,700 Future Annual Operations

Notes:

1. Noise Contour Source: Butte County Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan (2000); for compatibility planning purposes, forecast assumes 1.5 times the draft Chico Airport Master Plan 2018 forecast of 94,740 annual operations will be reached over a 20-year timeframe.

Chico Municipal Airport Noise Contours

Oroville Municipal Airport Noise Contours



Source: Butte County Airport Land Use Commission, Oroville Municipal Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan, 2017.

Legend

Boundary Lines
- Existing Runway
  - Runway 02-20 (6,020' X 100')
  - Runway 13-31 (3,540' X 100')
- Airport Property Line
- City Limits
- City Sphere of Influence
- Compatibility Zones
- Airport Influence Area

Noise Impacts[1]
- 55 dB CNEL
- 60 dB CNEL
- 65 dB CNEL

} 72,000 Future Annual Operations

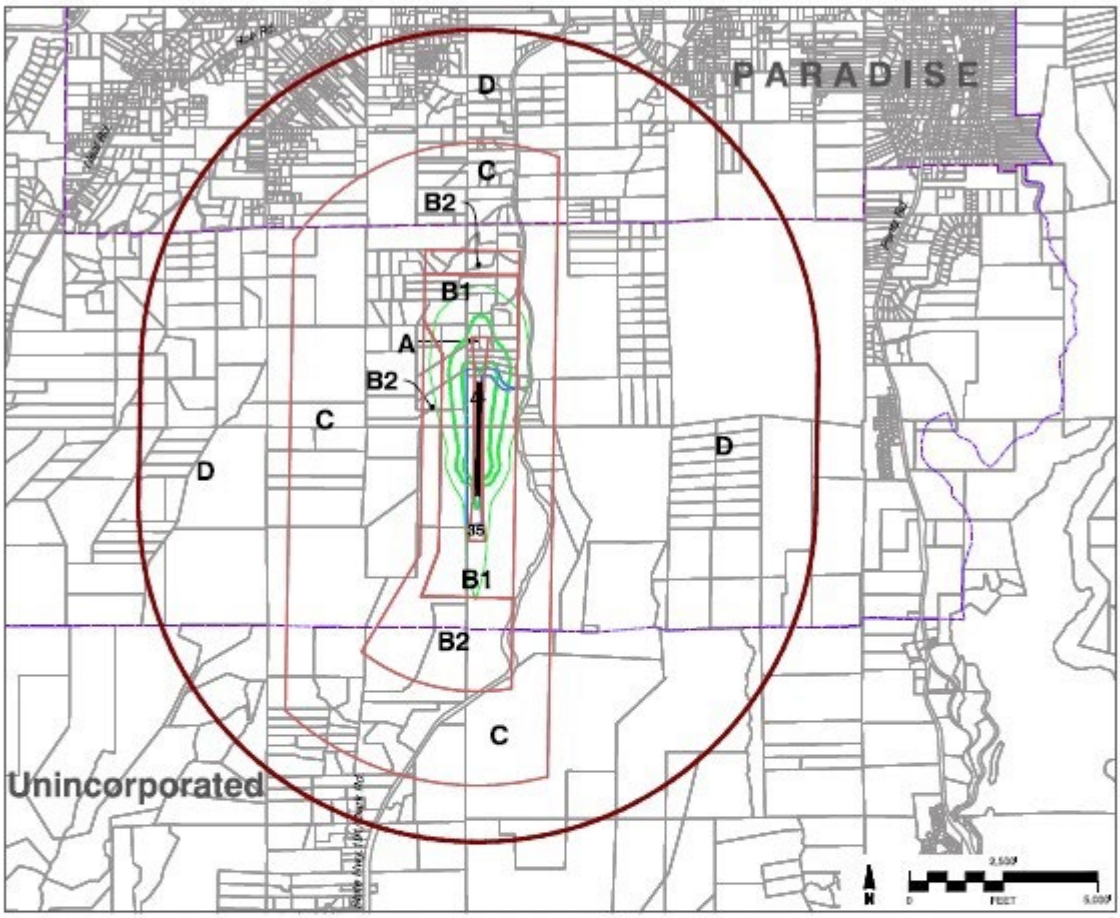
Notes:

1. Noise Contour Source: Oroville Municipal Airport Master Plan (1993); for compatibility planning purposes, the 2010 Master Plan forecast is brought forward to cover the requisite 20-year timeframe.

Oroville Municipal Airport Noise Contours

Paradise Skypark Airport Noise Contours

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Source: Butte County Airport Land Use Commission, Paradise Skypark Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan, 2017.

Legend

Boundary Lines
- Existing Runway 17-35 (3,017' x 60')
- Airport Property Line
- City Limits
- City Sphere of Influence
- Compatibility Zones
- Airport Influence Area

Noise Factors[1]
- 55 dB CNEL
- 60 dB CNEL
- 65 dB CNEL

30,000 Future Annual Operations

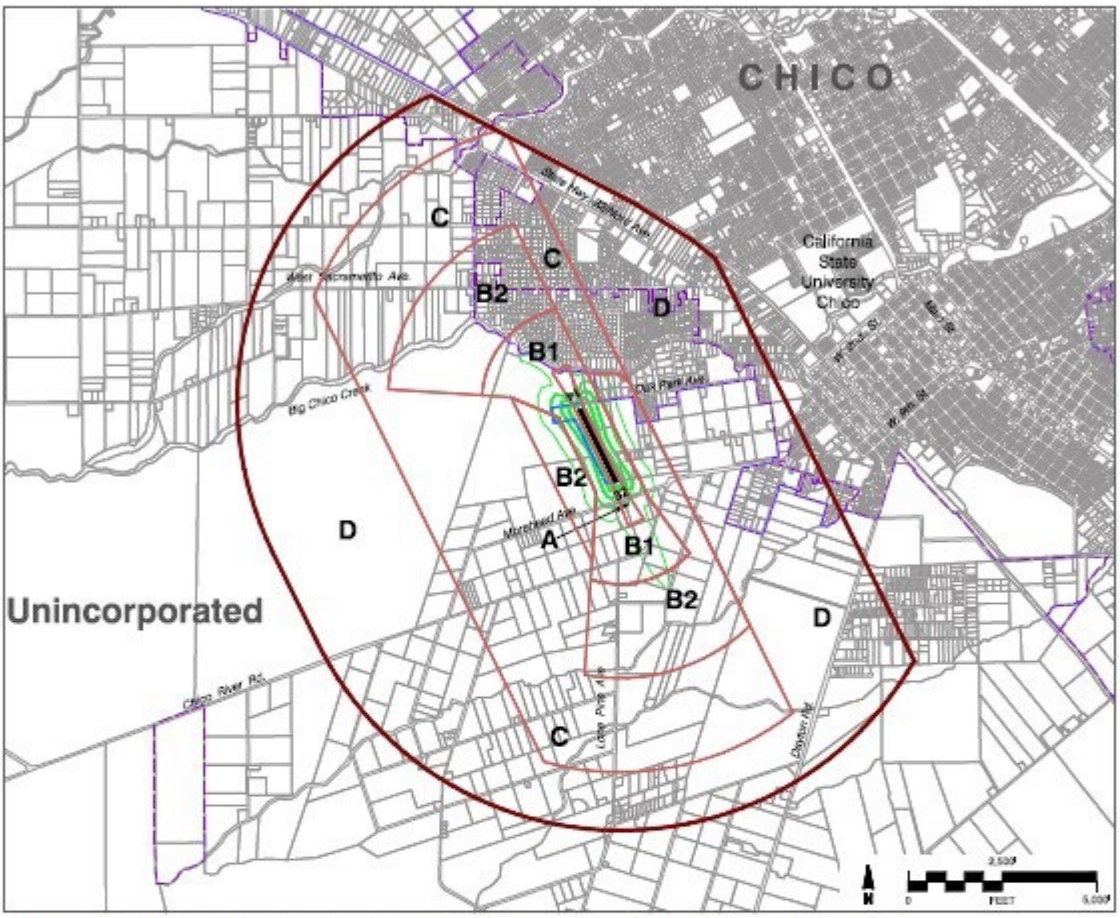
Notes:

1. Noise Contour Source: Butte County Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan (2000); for compatibility planning purposes, the ALUCP forecast is brought forward to cover the requisite 20-year timeframe.

Paradise Skypark Airport Noise Contours

Ranchaero Airport Noise Contours

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Source: Butte County Airport Land Use Commission, Ranchaero Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan, 2017.

Ranchaero Airport Noise Contours

APPENDIX E HEALTH AND SAFETY ELEMENT DEFINITIONS

Adaptation: Making changes in response to current or future conditions (such as the increased frequency and intensity of climate-related hazards), usually to reduce harm and to take advantage of new opportunities.[1,2] Climate change adaptation describes actions that address the projected impacts on all aspects of community function that may result from climate change. This can include impacts related to hazard events (flood, wildfire, drought, severe storms), as well as slow changes that affect agricultural, forestry, and fisheries productivity; ecosystem structure and function; and public health.[3]

Adaptive capacity: The combination of the strengths, attributes, and resources available to an individual or community that can be used to prepare for and undertake actions to reduce adverse impacts, moderate harm, or exploit beneficial opportunities.[4]

Critical facilities: Facilities whose continued functioning is necessary to maintain public health and safety following a disaster, and where damage or failure could pose hazards to life and property well beyond their immediate vicinity. In Butte County, these facilities include public safety, emergency response, emergency medical, emergency shelters, communications, public utility plant facilities, essential government operations, at-risk population facilities, and hazardous materials facilities.

Evacuation center: A site or building designated by the Butte County Office of Emergency Management during and after a disaster to provide emergency shelter, communications, and a meeting point to community members and visitors evacuating.

Evacuation route: A roadway designated on the Butte County Community Evacuation Maps as a recommended route to travel when evacuating from a hazardous condition.

Hazard: An event or physical condition that has the potential to cause fatalities, injuries, property damage, infrastructure damage, agricultural losses, damage to the environment, interruption of business, or other types of harm or loss.[5]

Impact: The effects (especially the negative effects) of a hazard or other conditions associated with climate change. Impact is often considered the combination of exposure and sensitivity.[6]

Resilience: The capacity of any entity to prepare for disruptions, to recover from shocks and stresses, and to adapt and grow from a disruptive experience.[7]

Resilience hubs: Well-used community-serving facilities with year-round programming that also provide local communities with shelter, water, and electricity during hazardous events or disasters.

Well-used community-serving facilities with year-round programming that also provide local communities with shelter, water, and electricity during hazardous events or disasters.

Public assembly points and refuge areas: A temporary assembly area for evacuees to assemble until conditions subside and evacuation routes are accessible, or for evacuees who otherwise cannot evacuate the community on their own and need assistance to be moved to a shelter.

Vulnerability: The degree to which natural, built, and human systems are susceptible to harm from exposure to stresses associated with environmental and social change and from the absence of capacity to adapt.[8]

Vulnerability assessment: An analysis of how climate change may harm a community and which populations and assets are most vulnerable to its effects based on an assessment of exposure, sensitivity, the potential impacts, and the community's adaptive capacity.9

Endnotes

[1] Louise Bedsworth, Dan Cayan, Guido Franco, Leah Fisher, Sonya Ziaja, "Statewide Summary Report," in *California's Fourth Climate Change Assessment*, publication number: SUMCCCA4-2018-013, 2018.

[2] California Natural Resource Agency, Safeguarding California Plan: *2018 Update: California's Climate Adaptation Strategy, 2018*, http://resources.ca.gov/docs/climate/safeguarding/update2018/safeguarding-california-plan- 2018-update.pdf.

[3] California Governor's Office of Emergency Services, *California State Hazard Mitigation Plan*, 2018, https://www.caloes.ca.gov/cal-oesdivisions/hazard-mitigation/hazard-mitigation-planning/state-hazard- mitigation-plan.

[4] Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, "Annex II: GLOSSARY," ed. K. J. Mach, S. Planton, and C. von Stechow, in *Climate Change 2014: Synthesis Report*, ed. Core Writing Team, R. K. Pachauri, and L. A. Meyer (Geneva, Switzerland: IPCC, 2014), p. 117–130, https:// www.ipcc.ch/report/ar5/syr/.

[5] California Governor's Office of Emergency Services, *California State Hazard Mitigation Plan*, 2018, https://www.caloes.ca.gov/cal-oes-divisions/hazard-mitigation/hazard-mitigationplanning/state-hazard- mitigation-plan.

[6] World Bank Group, *Action Plan on Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience: Managing Risks for a More Resilient Future*, 2019, http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/519821547481031999/The-World-Bank- Groups-Action-Plan-on-Climate-ChangeAdaptation-and-Resilience-Managing-Risks-for-a-More-Resilient- Future.pdf.

[7] California Governor's Office of Emergency Services. 2020. *California Adaptation Planning Guide*. https://www.caloes.ca.gov/HazardMitigationSite/Documents/CA-Adaptation-Planning-Guide-FINAL-June-2020-Accessible.pdf.

[8] California Governor's Office of Emergency Services. 2020. *California Adaptation Planning Guide*. https://www.caloes.ca.gov/HazardMitigationSite/Documents/CA-Adaptation-Planning-Guide-FINAL-June-2020-Accessible.pdf.

[9] California Governor's Office of Emergency Services. 2020. *California Adaptation Planning Guide*. https://www.caloes.ca.gov/HazardMitigationSite/Documents/CA-Adaptation-Planning-Guide-FINAL-June-2020-Accessible.pdf.

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