



Department of Development Services

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**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT
BUTTE COUNTY GENERAL PLAN 2040 UPDATE
AND PUBLIC HEARING TO SOLICIT PUBLIC COMMENTS**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the County of Butte (County), as the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the County's General Plan Update 2040 (the "Project"). The Draft EIR and technical appendices will be available for public review/comment beginning on **Friday, January 06, 2023**. A Planning Commission public hearing will be held on Thursday, January 26, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. in the Board of Supervisors Chambers, Butte County Administrative Center, 25 County Center Drive, Oroville, CA 95965.

All files can be downloaded from the County of Butte website at <https://www.buttecounty.net/dds/generalplanupdate>. A copy of the EIR and all documents incorporated by reference in the EIR are also available at:

Butte County Development Services Office
7 County Center Drive
Oroville, CA 95965

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: A Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) was prepared for the County of Butte Department of Development Services (County) in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to analyze the potential environmental impacts associated with the Butte County General Plan 2040 Update. The General Plan establishes the community's long-term vision for the future, including where people in Butte County will live, work, shop, learn, and recreate. It serves as guidance for all zoning and land use decisions within the unincorporated area of Butte County. It will shape future housing, support job growth, foster healthy and resilient neighborhoods, protect, and manage natural resources and agricultural lands, ensure community safety, and promote social and economic equity. The 2040 General Plan Update outlines the County's goals for physical growth, conservation, and community life, and contains policies and actions to guide the County in reaching those goals. The 2040 General Plan Update is updating six Elements: Health & Safety (including the Noise Element), Housing, Land Use, Circulation, Water Resources, and including a new Environmental Justice Element. Other Elements of the current General Plan are revised to ensure consistency with the updated elements such as Area and Neighborhood Plans, Agriculture, Conservation and Open Space, Economic Development, and Public Facilities and Services. The 2040 General Plan Update also incorporates the Upper Ridge Community Plan (URCP) which includes projects and strategies for the Upper Ridge Community Plan Area, including the redesignation of 28 parcels from Retail and Office to Mixed-Use.

PROJECT LOCATION: Butte County (unincorporated)

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW FINDINGS: The Draft EIR identifies environmental impacts that are less than significant or require mitigation to reduce impacts to less than significant in the following topic areas: aesthetics, cultural resources, energy, geology and soils, hazards and hazardous resources, hydrology and water quality, land use and planning, mineral resources, population and housing, public services and recreation, transportation, utilizes and service systems. Significant and unavoidable impacts have been identified in the following topic areas: agriculture and forestry resources, air quality, biological resources, greenhouse gas emissions, noise, and wildfire.

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY: A copy of the DEIR may be reviewed at the Butte County Development Services Department; 7 County Center Drive, Oroville, CA 95965, between the hours of 8:00 am and 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday, except 8:00 am to 3:00 pm on Wednesday. The DEIR is available online at <https://www.buttecounty.net/dds/generalplanupdate>

PUBLIC HEARING AND COMMENT: This public notice is posted to officially notify the public, public agencies, and responsible and trustee agencies that the required 45-day public review/comment period will commence on **Friday, January 06, 2023**, and conclude on **Tuesday, February 21, 2023**. Any written comments (via email or letter) on the Draft EIR must be submitted no later than 5 p.m. on **Tuesday, February 21, 2023**. Written comments may be mailed to Mark Michelena, Principal Planner, Butte County Planning Division, 7 County Center Drive, Oroville, CA 95965. Email comments can be sent to mmichelena@buttecounty.net.

You may comment by providing testimony at a public hearing before the Butte County Planning Commission. **The public hearing will be on Thursday, January 26, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. in the Board of Supervisors Chambers, Butte County Administrative Center, 25 County Center Drive, Oroville, CA 95965.** This hearing will be open to the public. The hearing will begin with a project overview and summary of the Draft EIR. Written and verbal comments on the Draft EIR will be accepted during the meeting. The Planning Commission will preside over the meeting; however, it will not take any action on the Draft EIR or project. Staff will note general themes of verbal comments made and will address them in the Final EIR. Members of the public are encouraged to submit written comments to ensure that their specific comments are represented in the project record and addressed in the Final EIR. This hearing will also be held via an online format. Members of the public who wish to participate online in public comment are encouraged to register in advance of the hearing by emailing PCCLerk@buttecounty.net. Use the following information to remotely view and participate in the Planning Commission meeting, including the Public Hearing portions, online:

Link: <http://bcdds.net/PlanningCommission>

Event (Meeting) Number: 2559 907 4900

or

Phone number: United States Toll Free: 1-844-992-4726 **Event Password:** Planning

If you challenge this environmental document in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues raised by you or others in written correspondence or in hearings on the proposed project.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this hearing, please contact us at (530) 538-7601. Notification at least 72 hours prior to the hearing will enable staff to make reasonable arrangements.