

## 4.12 PUBLIC SERVICES AND RECREATION

This chapter discusses public services and recreation in Butte County, and includes evaluation of the impacts associated with the projected 2030 buildout of General Plan 2030 with regard to police, fire, schools, libraries, and parks and recreation. This section is based on a quantitative analysis of anticipated population growth, although it also considers the spatial distribution of population growth across public service and recreation districts. Implementation of the Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan (ALUCP) override would have no public service or recreation impact in Butte County, and is not discussed further in this chapter.

Analysis of impacts related to public safety, including impacts from exposure to fire hazards, is included in Section 4.7, Hazards and Safety, of this EIR.

### *A. Police*

This section describes current conditions and potential impacts of the proposed General Plan 2030 with regard to police services in Butte County.

#### **1. Existing Conditions**

Law enforcement services in Butte County are provided by the Butte County Sheriff's Office, the California Highway Patrol, and police agencies in the Cities of Chico, Oroville, Gridley, and Biggs and the Town of Paradise.

##### **a. Butte County Sheriff's Office**

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 California Highway Patrol 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 operating the County Jail, which is utilized by all law enforcement agencies within Butte County.

BCSO sworn personnel include the Sheriff, Undersheriff, captains, lieutenants, sergeants and deputies; non-sworn personnel include correctional lieutenants, sergeants, officers and technicians, public safety dispatchers and clerical staff.<sup>1</sup> Of the sworn personnel, four deputy sheriffs are assigned to one of eight patrol teams and each team is supervised by a sergeant, dependent on being fully staffed. Another 19 deputy sheriffs and two sergeants are assigned to a contract with the courts, with the remainder assigned to designated area deputy positions, administration, narcotics, marijuana eradication, boat patrol, criminal investigations, internal affairs, background investigation, specialized units and the jail.

The BCSO has divided the county into north and south service areas. Twenty-four hour patrol service is provided. Typically, one deputy is assigned per car. Patrol teams operate in response to specific incidents. The department encourages preventative patrol or non-directed activity with a target of 20 to 25 percent of each deputy's shift devoted to self-initiated activity.

b. California Highway Patrol

The California Highway Patrol (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 BCSO and will respond when requested by the Sheriff.

The CHP has two offices that serve Butte County. The county is divided into north and south regions at the intersection of State Routes 99 and 149. The north district office, located in Chico, has 28 uniformed staff, including 24 officers, three sergeants and one captain. The office has twelve vehicles in operation. Typical staffing has three to four units during the day and evening shifts, and one two-person unit during the graveyard shift. The north district office is also the dispatch center for the region. The CHP's south office, lo-

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<sup>1</sup> Kuhn, John, Lieutenant, Butte County Sheriff's Office, personal communication with Jessica Daniels, DC&E, August 12, 2009.

cated in Oroville, has 24 officers, four sergeants and one lieutenant. The office has ten vehicles in operation, with similar staffing as the north district office.<sup>2</sup>

The normal deployment/distribution of CHP personnel is based upon traffic volume and accident rates within the county. Areas with a high incidence of accidents or traffic control problems are patrolled on a regular basis. There are many areas of the county, particularly in the foothills, which are outside regular CHP patrols and visited only when called.

c. 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.<sup>3</sup>

i. *Gridley-Biggs Police Department*

The Gridley-Biggs Police Department is responsible for protecting the citizens and property in the City of Gridley and the City of Biggs. The Department operates one police station.<sup>4</sup> The station is staffed by a Police Chief, Assistant Chief, three sergeants and eleven sworn officers. The Department provides a variety of support services to the City of Gridley and the City of Biggs, as well as the surrounding unincorporated area.<sup>5</sup> These services include

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<sup>2</sup> Sherman, Mike, Lieutenant, California Highway Patrol, personal communication with Lisa Katz, DC&E, September 21, 2009.

<sup>3</sup> Kuhn, John, Lieutenant, Butte County Sheriff's Office, personal communication with Jessica Daniels, DC&E, August 6, 2009.

<sup>4</sup> City of Gridley Police Department website, <http://www.gridley.ca.us/departments/police.php>, accessed on August 11, 2009.

<sup>5</sup> Keeler, Gary, Police Chief, Gridley-Biggs Police Department, personal communication with Jessica Daniels, DC&E, August 12, 2009.

animal control, a reserve force, a gang task force and a volunteer senior corps. The Department provides 24-hour emergency service.

*ii. Chico Police Department*

The City of Chico Police Department covers a district that is approximately 30 square miles and serves the residents in the City of Chico. The Department is staffed by 97 sworn police officers, which are part of the Operations Division.<sup>6</sup> The Operations Division provides a patrol section, crisis negotiation, special weapons and tactics (SWAT), a traffic unit, downtown bicycle patrol, and neighborhood watch. The Support Division, which consists of 52 employees, is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week and dispatches both police and fire department personnel.

*iii. Oroville Police Department*

The City of Oroville Police Department has 20 sworn police officers that protect the City of Oroville, including four sergeants and 16 officers. The Department provides community patrol, SWAT, neighborhood watch, school resource officers, and participates in the Butte Inter-Agency Narcotics Task Force.<sup>7</sup>

*iv. Paradise Police Department*

The Paradise Police Department serves the Town of Paradise. The Department is staffed by the Police Chief, two lieutenants, four sergeants, and 17 sworn officers. There are 23 support staff members, including emergency dispatchers, criminal records technicians, shelter assistants and administration. The Department provides the following special units: a special response team, a K9 unit, a narcotics task force, school resource officers and animal

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<sup>6</sup> City of Chico Police Department website, [http://www.chico.ca.us/Police/Home\\_Page.asp](http://www.chico.ca.us/Police/Home_Page.asp), accessed August 11, 2009.

<sup>7</sup> City of Oroville Police Department website, City of Gridley Police Department website, <http://www.cityoforoville.org/index.aspx?page=137>, accessed on August 11, 2009.

control. In addition, the Department participates in the Butte Inter-Agency Narcotics Task Force.<sup>8</sup>

## 2. Standards of Significance

General Plan 2030 would have a significant impact with regard to police services if it would:

- ◆ Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered police facilities, or result in the need for new or physically altered police facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives.

## 3. Impact Discussion

The following discussion provides an analysis of potential project and cumulative police service impacts that could occur as a result of the projected 2030 buildout of General Plan 2030.

### a. Project Impacts

- i. Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered police facilities, or result in the need for new or physically altered police facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives.*

Implementation of General Plan 2030 is projected to result in approximately 33,800 new residents by 2030, which would increase the need for police services. To continue to provide the current level of service, approximately 17 additional sworn officers would need to be added to the BCSO. To support the additional officers, it is likely that supplementary support staff, equipment and increased facility space would also be needed. Additionally, increased staffing and funding would be needed in the following criminal justice departments: District Attorney, Public Defender, and Probation.

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<sup>8</sup> Lynch, Valerie, Administrative Assistant, Town of Paradise Police Department, personal communication with Jessica Daniels, DC&E, August 11, 2009.

General Plan 2030 includes policies that support police services. Public Facilities and Services Element Policy PUB-P3.1 supports the expansion of volunteer services for law enforcement, and Policy PUB-P3.2 supports citizen efforts to strengthen and expand neighborhood watch programs, including in commercial areas. In addition, Land Use Element Policy LU-P9.1 directs the County to work with municipalities and service providers to ensure that services are available for new development and consistent with master plans.

As indicated above, as new development occurs, new or expanded police facilities may be needed to support the associated population growth. It is not known at this point when such facilities would be required or what the exact nature of these facilities would be. As a result, it cannot be determined what project-specific environmental impacts would occur from their construction and operation. The potential impacts would be identified during the facility planning process. However, General Plan 2030 requires that County facilities be designed, constructed, and operated to be environmentally sustainable and beneficial to the community and the region through Policy PUB-P1.2.

As a result of the proposed policies, police services impacts would be *less than significant*.

b. Cumulative Impacts

Future regional growth would result in increased demand for police services throughout the region. Additionally, Butte County provides law enforcement services to neighboring jurisdictions via mutual aid agreements and calls upon them for assistance. However, as Butte County would provide for additional police services within its own boundaries and would be required to address the potential environmental impacts of the development of additional or expanded police facilities, General Plan 2030 would have a *less-than-significant* cumulative impact related to police services.

**4. Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

Since there are no significant impacts related to police services as a result of General Plan 2030, no mitigation measures are required.

***B. Fire Protection***

This section describes current conditions and potential impacts of the proposed General Plan 2030 with regard to fire protection services in Butte County.

**1. Existing Conditions**

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.

**a. Butte County Fire Department and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection**

Since 1931, the County has contracted with CAL FIRE to provide staffing to the BCFD through an annual cooperative agreement. Under the terms of this agreement, the County funds CAL FIRE professional command, firefighting, and administrative staff to operate the BCFD. Through this arrangement, CAL FIRE and the BCFD function together as a fully consolidated fire protection agency and provide cost-effective fire protection service for Butte County.

BCFD/CAL FIRE services include fire control for structural, vegetation, vehicular, and other unwanted fires; emergency medical services; technical rescue response; hazardous materials response; flood control assistance; fire prevention and public safety education; fire law enforcement/arson investigation; and vegetation management. In addition, BCFD/CAL FIRE operates countywide dispatch services, coordinates major emergency response within the county as the Office of Emergency Service's mutual aid coordinator, and provides training for career and volunteer fire fighters. In addition to fire engine responses, the Department's Emergency Command Center (ECC) provides Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) services.

There are twelve BCFD stations staffed with career fire fighters and 19 volunteer fire companies. During the seven months outside of the peak fire season, the County also provides funding for six CAL FIRE stations to provide year-round protection to county residents in Forest Ranch, Jarbo Gap, Paradise, Robinson Mill, Harts Mill, and Stirling City. CAL FIRE staffs 16 fire season units altogether, including the six mentioned above. The CAL FIRE stations are located mainly in the foothills of the eastern portion of the county. In addition, CAL FIRE operates the Chico Air Attack Base during the summer season.

The year-round BCFD stations, situated in a number of communities, were built to serve the needs of expanding local populations. Until recently, each of the twelve BCFD stations was staffed with at least two firefighters 24 hours per day. Currently, there are “rolling brown outs” of two stations due to budget cuts. In other words, two stations are closed at a given time.<sup>9</sup> The BCFD is directly funded through the County’s General Fund, and the annual budget for the 2009/10 fiscal year is approximately \$12 million. A Capital Outlay Budget Change Proposal was submitted by CAL FIRE to staff the Butte Fire Center, located in Magalia, as a conservation camp. If funded and built, CAL FIRE and the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation will jointly run the Butte Conservation Camp at that location.<sup>10</sup>

The need for additional fire stations and replacement of existing stations is being considered by Butte County. The County’s Capital Improvement Program (CIP) will help guide the BCFD in infrastructure improvement decisions. In addition, a Standards of Cover Study, completed in 2007, will assist the BCFD in station location decisions.<sup>11</sup> The Study provided average service

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<sup>9</sup> Kim, Sang, Deputy Butte County Chief Administrator, personal communication with DC&E, December 4, 2009.

<sup>10</sup> Damon, Matt, Fire Captain – Deputy Fire Marshal, CAL FIRE/Butte County Fire Department, personal communication with Lisa Katz and Jessica Daniels, DC&E, August 31, 2009.

<sup>11</sup> Standards of Response Cover Study for the Butte County Fire Department, *Deployment Performance Standards (Exhibit B)*, August 19, 2008.

response times to specific locations throughout the county. Based on the recommendations of the Study, the Board of Supervisors adopted the BCFD Deployment Performance Standards on August 19, 2008. These standards are:

- ◆ Population equal to or greater than 1,000 people per square mile or industrial, agricultural or infrastructure of high value:<sup>12</sup>
  - For emergencies requiring a single fire engine response the first due engine shall arrive within 7 minutes of the 911 call 90 percent of the time, countywide.
  - For emergencies requiring multiple engines and an effective force of 15 fire fighters, they shall arrive within 11 minutes of the 911 call 90 percent of the time, countywide.
- ◆ Population of 500 to 1,000 people per square mile:
  - For emergencies requiring a single fire engine response the first due engine shall arrive within 13 minutes of the 911 call 90 percent of the time, countywide.
  - For emergencies requiring multiple engines and an effective force of 15 fire fighters, they shall arrive within 18 minutes of the 911 call 90 percent of the time, countywide.
- ◆ Population less than 500 per square mile:
  - For emergencies requiring a single fire engine response the first due engine shall arrive within 17 minutes of the 911 call 90 percent of the time, countywide.
  - For emergencies requiring multiple engines and an effective force of 15 fire fighters, they shall arrive within 23 minutes of the 911 call 90 percent of the time, countywide.

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<sup>12</sup> “*Industrial, agricultural or infrastructure facilities of high value*” are defined as facilities that are important to the economic wellbeing of the citizens of Butte County. These facilities may be identified by calculated fire flow of 3,500 GPM or more, significant research or educational value, and other facilities as determined by the Fire Department and other appropriate county offices.

Butte County is currently working to replace the Bangor Fire Station. In addition, Station 41 in Nord is slated for replacement as funds and grants become available.<sup>13</sup>

*i. Automatic Aid Agreements*

The BCFD has established automatic aid agreements with other fire protection agencies to provide optimal fire protection service to the entire county. Automatic aid agreements allow the resources nearest to an emergency situation to be dispatched on the first alarm regardless of jurisdiction. The BCFD has automatic aid agreements with every fire-fighting agency in the county, as well as with 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. Additionally, under contract the BCFD/CAL FIRE ECC provides dispatching services for the Oroville Fire Department and the El Medio Fire Protection District.

*ii. Volunteer Fire Companies*

BCFD is supported by 200 active volunteer fire fighters who are organized into 16 local companies. The volunteer companies are dispatched by the CAL FIRE/BCFD ECC as needed. The volunteer companies make up an essential part of the County fire protection system, often providing the first response to an emergency in the rural portions of the county that are some distance from a BCFD or CAL FIRE station. Although the volunteer companies are organized within and supported by the local communities, they operate as part of the countywide fire protection system and receive regular training by the BCFD and CAL FIRE career fire fighters.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> Damon, Matt, Fire Captain - Deputy Fire Marshal, CAL FIRE/Butte County Fire Department, personal communication with Lisa Katz and Jessica Daniels, DC&E, August 31, 2009.

<sup>14</sup> Damon, Matt, Fire Captain - Deputy Fire Marshal, CAL FIRE/Butte County Fire Department, personal communication with Lisa Katz and Jessica Daniels, DC&E, August 31, 2009.

b. Chico Fire Department

The City of Chico Fire Department operates six fire stations and one fire training center. The stations are staffed by 70 full-time fire fighters and two full-time and one part-time administrative assistant. Additionally, a volunteer company of 23 fire fighters is on call in case of a large scale emergency. The Department provides response to structural, vegetation, vehicle and other unwanted fires, medical aid, and other rescue services to Chico city residents. The area covered by the City of Chico Fire Department is 31 square miles. In accordance to the Chico Urban Area Fire and Rescue Agreement (an automatic-aid agreement), the Department provides first response to emergencies in the unincorporated county area surrounding the city, when the City engine is the closest resource. In exchange, County resources respond to city emergencies when a County engine is the closest resource.<sup>15</sup>

c. Oroville Fire Department

The City of Oroville Fire Department operates one fire station that is staffed by 17 full-time personnel, which consists of one interim fire chief, 15 fire fighters, and one administrative assistant. There are no fire fighters working on an on-call basis at this time; however, the Department does operate an internship program. The area covered by the Department is 13 square miles. The Department provides service to Oroville city residents and, through an automatic aid agreement with BCFD, provides first response in the unincorporated county surrounding the city when the City engine is the closest resource. In exchange, County resources respond to city emergencies when a County engine is the closest resource.<sup>16</sup>

d. Paradise Fire Department

The Town of Paradise Fire Department operates three fire stations. The stations are staffed by 20 full-time paid firefighters, 17 volunteer fire fighters, and six support volunteers. The Department covers an 18-square-mile area.

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<sup>15</sup> Morris, Kate, Administrative Assistant #2, Fire Department, City of Chico, personal communication with Lisa Katz, DC&E, August 24, 2009.

<sup>16</sup> Copeland, Aaron, Engineer, Fire Department, City of Oroville, personal communication with Lisa Katz, DC&E, August 24, 2009.

The Department responds to structural, vehicular and wildland fires; provides hazardous material clean-up, rescue and medical aid services for people in the town limits; and provides services in the unincorporated area surrounding the town through an automatic aid agreement with BCFD. In exchange, County resources respond to town emergencies when a County engine is the closest resource.<sup>17</sup>

e. El Medio Fire District

The El Medio Fire District (EMFD) operates a single station located in South Oroville. Ten full-time fire fighters and several volunteers staff the station.<sup>18</sup> The EMFD covers approximately 2.3 square miles, and provides response to structural, vegetation, vehicle and other unwanted fires, as well as medical aid and other rescue services to over 4,000 people. EMFD contracts with CAL FIRE/BCFD for dispatch services. It also has an automatic aid agreement with BCFD and the City of Oroville.<sup>19</sup> The automatic aid agreement between EMFD, BCFD and the Oroville Fire Department was recently updated to allow EMFD to respond to fires within the Oroville city limits. Previously, EMFD did not respond to any calls within the city limits. Each entity has signed the update, but financial issues related to the change are still being finalized.<sup>20,21</sup>

The District's average response time to the furthest location from the station is three minutes and 45 seconds. This is well under the national average of a five-minute response time. The District is currently trying to obtain funding to construct a new fire station to house its firefighters and equipment. No funding has been identified yet, and the existing station is currently over ca-

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<sup>17</sup> Dawson, Terry, Administrative Assistant, Fire Department, Town of Paradise, personal communication with Lisa Katz, DC&E, August 24, 2009.

<sup>18</sup> Ohlhausen, Michael, Chief, El Medio Fire Department, personal communication with Tanya Sundberg, DC&E, July 9, 2009.

<sup>19</sup> City of Oroville, August 4, 2009, *Municipal Services Review*, page 3.3-4.

<sup>20</sup> City of Oroville, October 1, 2009, *Final Municipal Services Review*.

<sup>21</sup> El Medio Fire Department website, <http://www.elmediofire.org/home>, accessed February 11, 2010.

capacity. Funding deficiencies also exist for personnel. The District needs an additional two to three firefighters to meet current needs. Existing equipment is adequate for the station's current size.<sup>22</sup>

## 2. Standards of Significance

General Plan 2030 would have a significant impact with regard to fire protection services if it would:

- ◆ Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered fire protection facilities, or result in the need for new or physically altered fire protection facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives.

## 3. Impact Discussion

The following discussion provides an analysis of potential project and cumulative fire protection service impacts that could occur as a result of the projected 2030 buildout of General Plan 2030.

### a. Project Impacts

- i. *Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered fire protection facilities, or result in the need for new or physically altered fire protection facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives.*

New growth under General Plan 2030 would result in new population and residential, commercial and industrial development in unincorporated Butte County, which would increase demand for fire protection services. As a result, additional staff and equipment would be required to maintain or improve current response times. It is likely that new or expanded facilities would be required, which could include new fire houses or outdoor training

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<sup>22</sup> Ohlhausen, Michael, Chief, El Medio Fire Department, Butte County, personal communication with Tanya Sundberg, DC&E, July 9, 2009.

areas, depending on the extent to which BCFD/CAL FIRE would be required to expand capacity. It is not known at what time or location such facilities would be required in Butte County or what the exact nature of these facilities would be. New or expanded facility locations will be influenced by population growth in order to serve county residents. As a result, it cannot be determined what project-specific environmental impacts would occur from their construction and operation. These potential impacts would be identified during the facility site selection process. However, General Plan 2030 requires that County facilities be designed, constructed, and operated to be environmentally sustainable and beneficial to the community and the region through Policy PUB-P1.2.

In addition, the proposed General Plan 2030 contains policies that aim to provide adequate fire protection and emergency medical response services to serve existing and new development. Policy PUB-P2.2 requires that the adopted Standards of Cover for fire protection be maintained and implemented, and Policy PUB-P2.3 requires that new fire stations be located on sites that are easily accessible, close to existing or future development, and/or close to fire hazard areas. Policy PUB-P2.1 supports the expansion of fire volunteer services, especially in remote areas. In addition, Land Use Element Policy LU-P9.1 directs the County to work with municipalities and service providers to ensure that services are available for new development and consistent with master plans.

Policy LU-P15.2 also helps to minimize fire protection service expansion needs by directing new urban development to already urbanized areas. Health and Safety Element Goals HS-11 and HS-12 and their associated policies reduce fire protection service needs by minimizing fire risks. In particular, Policy HS-P11.4 requires that new development meet current fire safety ordinance standards for adequate emergency water flow, emergency vehicle access, signage, evacuation routes, fuel management, defensible space, fire safe building construction, and wildfire preparedness.

As a result of the proposed policies, fire protection service impacts would be *less than significant*.

b. Cumulative Impacts

Future regional growth would result in increased demand for fire protection services throughout the region. Additionally, Butte County provides fire protection services to neighboring jurisdictions via mutual aid agreements, as well as calls upon them for assistance. However, as Butte County would provide for additional fire protection services within its own boundaries and would be required to address the potential environmental impacts of the development of additional or expanded fire stations, General Plan 2030 would have a *less-than-significant* cumulative impact related to fire protection services.

**4. Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

Since there are no significant impacts related to fire protection services as a result of General Plan 2030, no mitigation measures are required.

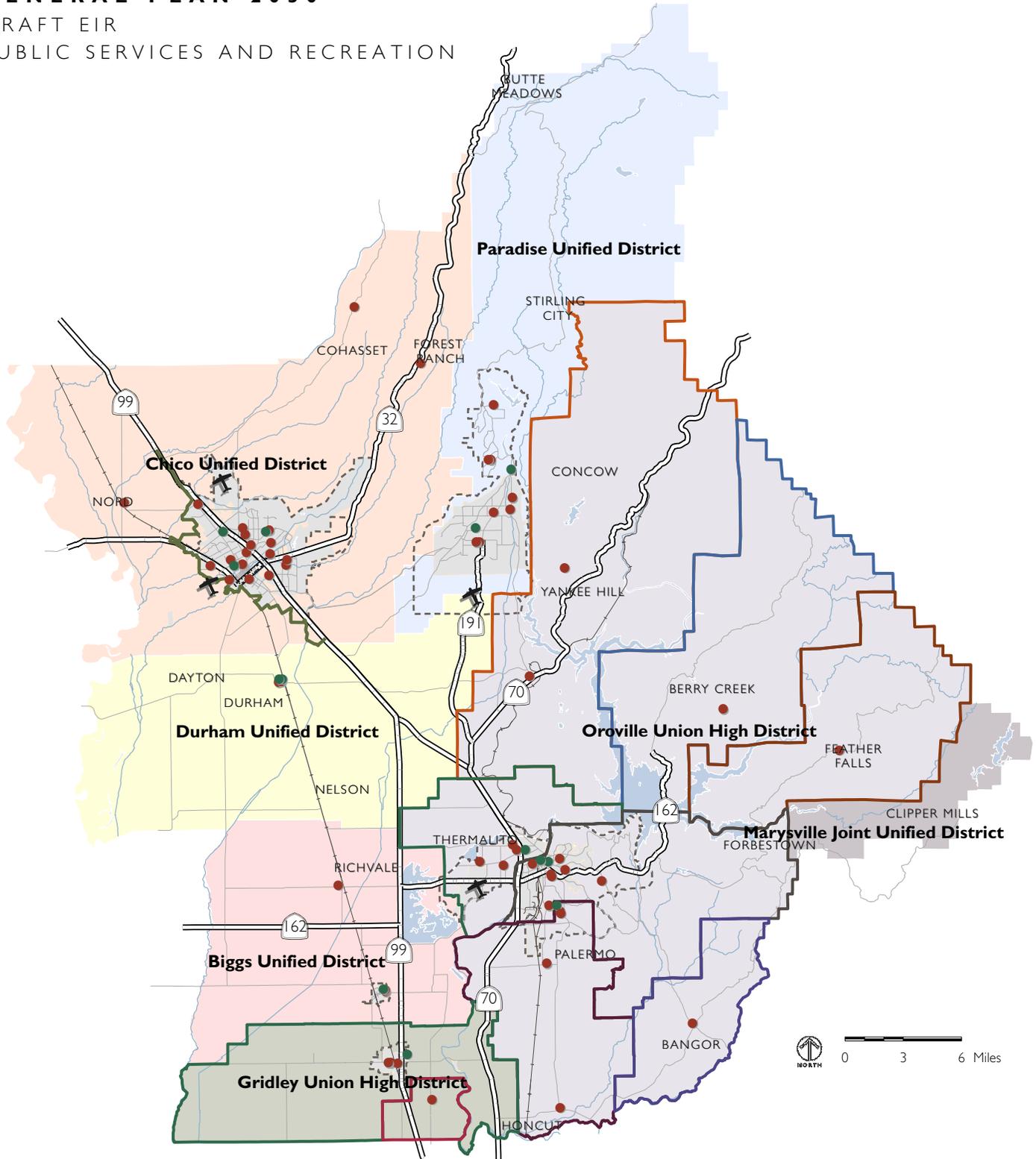
**C. Schools**

This section describes current conditions and potential impacts of the proposed General Plan 2030 with regard to schools in Butte County.

**1. Existing Conditions**

Fourteen local school districts provide elementary and secondary education to the municipalities and unincorporated areas of the county, as shown in Figure 4.12-1. Five of the districts (Biggs, Chico, Durham, Gridley, and Paradise) are unified school districts, serving students from kindergarten through high school. Eight districts (Bangor, Feather Falls, Golden Feather, Manzanita, Oroville City, Palermo, Pioneer, and Thermalito) provide elementary education throughout the rest of the county, feeding students into Oroville Union High School District and Gridley Unified School District for secondary education. In addition, a portion of the Marysville Joint Unified School District extends into Butte County, although it primarily serves Yuba County.

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Source: Butte County GIS, 2009.

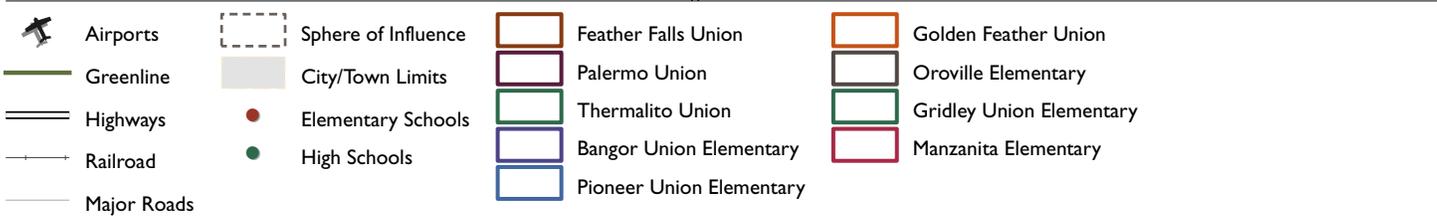


FIGURE 4.12-1  
**SCHOOL DISTRICTS**

According to the Education Data Partnership report for the fiscal year 2007-08, there were 32,559 students enrolled in public schools in Butte County. There were also 2,241 students enrolled in charter schools in Butte County, for a total Butte County enrollment of 34,800 students.<sup>23</sup> Enrollment has decreased since its peak of 35,304 students during the 1997-98 school year.<sup>24</sup> The local school districts range in size from the single school Feather Falls Union Elementary School District, which had 35 students enrolled during the 2007-08 school year, to the Chico Unified School District, which had 25 schools and an enrollment of 13,486 students during the 2007-08 school year.<sup>25</sup>

a. Bangor Union Elementary School District

The Bangor Union Elementary School District (BUESD) provides elementary education to the community of Bangor and the surrounding unincorporated county area south and east of Oroville.

BUESD has experienced moderate growth over the past several years and is projecting growth to continue at a relatively stable rate, although the recent economic downturn may cause some fluctuation. BUESD also participates in the State class-size reduction program, which makes funding contingent on limiting the class size to 20 students in primary grades. BUESD is approximately 40 square miles in area and operates a single school, Bangor Elementary, with a 2008-09 enrollment of 138 students in kindergarten through

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<sup>23</sup> Education Data Partnership website, <http://www.ed-data.k12.ca.us/Navigation/fsTwoPanel.asp?bottom=%2Fprofile%2Easp%3Flevel%3D05%26reportNumber%3D16>, accessed on April 1, 2009.

<sup>24</sup> California Department of Education, <http://data1.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/ASPGraph1.asp?Level=County&cName=BUTTE&cCode=04&cTopic=Enrollment&cLevel=County&cYear=2005-06&myTimeFrame=S&TheCounty=04,BUTTE&cChoice=TSEnr2>, accessed December 26, 2006.

<sup>25</sup> Education Data Partnership website, <http://www.ed-data.k12.ca.us/Navigation/fsTwoPanel.asp?bottom=%2Fprofile%2Easp%3Flevel%3D06%26reportNumber%3D16>, accessed April 8, 2009.

eighth grade.<sup>26</sup> Over the last decade, there has been a slight decline in enrollment from a peak of 160 in the 1990s, falling to between 130 and 150 in the 2000s. Following eighth grade, Bangor students attend school in the Oroville Union High School District. The elementary school, which was built for an enrollment of 75 to 100 students, is operating at capacity. Despite this, BUESD is not experiencing deficiencies such as overcrowding or lack of funding. No major renovations have occurred and no new schools are planned for BUESD, but a modernization project and new gymnasium and multipurpose room are approved for construction, which will add space for two new classrooms.<sup>27</sup>

The annual budget for BUESD is approximately \$1.1 million and is declining. Funding is provided by the State, which also funds the construction of new schools in BUESD. Impact fees for schools in the Bangor area are levied on new developments, approximately \$3 per square foot, and are collected by the Oroville High School District.

b. Biggs Unified School District

The Biggs Unified School District (BUSD) provides elementary and secondary education to the City of Biggs and surrounding unincorporated county areas. BUSD is approximately 135 square miles in area and operates six schools, with a combined total enrollment of 822 students.<sup>28</sup> The six schools that make up BUSD are described below.<sup>29</sup>

- ◆ One campus contains both the Biggs Middle School and Biggs High School. The middle school serves 137 students in seventh and eighth grades, and is separate from the high school, which serves 251 students in

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<sup>26</sup> Arnold, Paul, Superintendent, Bangor Elementary Union School District, personal communication with Jessica Daniels, DC&E, July 28, 2009.

<sup>27</sup> Arnold, Paul, Superintendent, Bangor Elementary Union School District, personal communication with Jessica Daniels, DC&E, July 28, 2009.

<sup>28</sup> Butte County Office of Education, <http://www.bcoe.org/home/districts/biggs.htm>, accessed December 26, 2006.

<sup>29</sup> Biggs Unified School District, <http://www.biggs.org/>, accessed July 28, 2006.

ninth to twelfth grades. Each school has its own core teaching staff, yet both schools share some facilities, such as the music room, cafeteria, gymnasium, and a few classrooms. In addition, the administrator for the middle school is also the high school's athletic director and principal.

- ◆ The Biggs Elementary School serves 400 students from kindergarten through sixth grade, participating in the State class-size reduction program for kindergarten through third grade. Originally built in 1951, the Biggs Elementary School has grown from three to 19 rooms, with many added improvements, such as a multipurpose room and playgrounds. BUSD's maintenance department takes care of all campus buildings, with matching funds from the State, using a series of five-year plans.
- ◆ The Richvale Elementary School has a total enrollment of 54 students from first through sixth grade. The school has three classrooms and other facilities, including a full-sized gymnasium with a stage and a cafeteria. Like the majority of BUSD facilities, the Richvale Elementary School is eligible for modernization funding through the Office of Public School Construction. BUSD will be working to modernize each school site to ensure that the facilities remain suitable for 21<sup>st</sup> Century educational activities.
- ◆ The Biggs Intermediate and Secondary Community Day Schools aim to address the needs of students that have either been expelled or demonstrate chronic behavioral or attendance problems. The school provides a very low student-to-teacher ratio.

To meet future increases in enrollment, BUSD added six portable classrooms for the elementary school and four for the high school in the late 1990s. BUSD owns a vacant, 44-acre site next to the Biggs schools, but it has not made plans to build a new school facility at this time.

c. Chico Unified School District

The Chico Unified School District (CUSD) provides elementary and secondary education to residents of the City of Chico and surrounding unincorporated areas. CUSD serves an area of approximately 322 square miles and op-

erates 26 schools on 25 sites with a combined total enrollment of 12,735 students in the 2008-09 school year.<sup>30</sup> CUSD has 17 elementary schools that serve kindergarten through sixth grades: Chapman, Chico, Citrus, Cohasset, Emma Wilson, Forest Ranch, Hooker Oak, Little Chico Creek, Marigold, McManus, Neal Dow, Nord, Partridge, Parkview, Rosedale, Shasta, and Sierra View. CUSD also has four junior high schools that serve seventh through eighth grades: Bidwell, Chico, Marsh, and the Academy for Change. The Chico Country Day School serves kindergarten through eighth grades. Four senior high schools serve ninth through twelfth grades: Chico, Pleasant Valley, Oakdale and Fairview Continuation. CUSD has been experiencing declining enrollment over the last decade and is expected to decrease by approximately 100 students during the 2009-10 school year. This declining enrollment is being compounded by the opening of several charter schools in the area.<sup>31</sup>

CUSD has accommodated continued growth in enrollment by changing school boundaries, reusing existing facilities, modifying existing facilities, allowing intradistrict student transfers, constructing new facilities, and using leased portable facilities. CUSD owns two sites for the construction of future schools. One is for the development of an elementary school campus and the other is intended for a new high school. In addition to the identification and purchase of school sites, CUSD has completed major modernization projects on two of its campuses in the last eight to nine years. New additions are currently underway at both Chico and Pleasant Valley High Schools, including a new Performing Arts Center and buildings for classrooms. Major renovations for these two schools are currently being prioritized as Phase 23 of Measure A, a local General Obligation bond passed by CUSD voters in 1998.

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<sup>30</sup> Combes, Jan, Assistant Superintendent, Chico Unified School District, personal communication with Jessica Daniels, DC&E, August 3, 2009.

<sup>31</sup> Michael Weissenborn, Facilities Planner/Construction Manager, Chico Unified School District, personal communication with Jessica Daniels, DC&E, September 1, 2009.

CUSD also leases a facility for its Community Day School which serves approximately 90 students.<sup>32</sup>

Renovation and new construction of CUSD facilities are funded by a variety of sources, including:

- ◆ Voter-approved State bonds through the School Facility Program;
- ◆ The Measure A local school bond;
- ◆ School impact fees of \$2.97 per square foot levied on residential development; and
- ◆ Pass-through of 2 percent of the tax increment revenue generated by re-development areas within the City of Chico.

In addition, the State Deferred Maintenance Program matches CUSD funds for major repair or replacement of existing school building components.<sup>33</sup> For the 2008-09 school year, maintenance work consisted mainly of roof replacements. The total yearly operating budget for CUSD is approximately \$100 million, which does not cover construction costs. Approximately 70 percent comes from State sources, 20 percent from local sources and 10 percent from federal sources.

CUSD's Student Housing Master Plan forms the basis for long-term planning decisions affecting CUSD facilities and includes a Twenty-Year General Plan and a Five-Year Specific Plan. The Master Plan, with projections covering the next 20 years, is in the process of being reviewed and updated to reflect changing State and local demographics and CUSD and student facilities needs.<sup>34</sup>

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<sup>32</sup> Combes, Jan, Assistant Superintendent, Chico Unified School District, personal communication with Jessica Daniels, DC&E, August 3, 2009.

<sup>33</sup> Chico Unified School District, [http://www.chicousd.org/\\_dept/business/facilities\\_planning/index.html](http://www.chicousd.org/_dept/business/facilities_planning/index.html), accessed September 22, 2009.

<sup>34</sup> Chico Unified School District, [http://www.chicousd.org/\\_dept/business/facilities\\_planning/index.html](http://www.chicousd.org/_dept/business/facilities_planning/index.html), accessed September 22, 2009.

d. Durham Unified School District

The Durham Unified School District (DUSD) provides elementary and secondary education to a 186-square-mile district that includes Durham and its surrounding area. DUSD operates four schools, Durham Elementary School (kindergarten through fifth grade), Durham Intermediate School (sixth through eighth grade), Durham High School (ninth through twelfth grades) and Mission High School (which serves as the alternative high school for ninth through twelfth grades and Continuation), with a combined enrollment of 1,114 students in the 2008-09 academic year.<sup>35</sup>

DUSD experienced its peak enrollment in 2000-01, with 1,362 students, and has declined steadily at an average rate of 31 students per year. Enrollment is projected to continue declining through the 2009-10 school year.<sup>36</sup>

DUSD has addressed growth in the past by moving the sixth grade to the intermediate school and through the use of portable classrooms at all schools; however, DUSD schools are currently well under capacity.<sup>37</sup>

The annual budget for DUSD is approximately \$10 million and comes from federal, State and local sources. New schools are funded through State and local sources. The impact fee levied on new development for schools is \$2.97 per square foot.

e. Feather Falls Union School District

The Feather Falls Union School District (FFUSD) provides elementary education to the community of Feather Falls and surrounding county areas. FFUSD is approximately 94 square miles in area and operates a single school, Feather Falls Elementary School.

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<sup>35</sup> Cavanaugh, Connie, Business Manager, Durham Unified School District, personal communication with Jessica Daniels, DC&E, August 6, 2009.

<sup>36</sup> Cavanaugh, Connie, Business Manager, Durham Unified School District, personal communication with Jessica Daniels, DC&E, August 6, 2009.

<sup>37</sup> Cavanaugh, Connie, Business Manager, Durham Unified School District, personal communication with Jessica Daniels, DC&E, August 6, 2009.

FFUSD enrollment in 2008-09 was 22 students. Enrollment has declined over the last decade and is expected to decrease further in 2009-10. Currently, FFUSD is significantly under its maximum capacity of 400 students. FFUSD has no planned renovations or improvements to the schools or associated facilities at this time; however, a new heating, ventilating, and air conditioning system was installed during the summer of 2009, as well as a new school roof.<sup>38</sup>

FFUSD's total annual budget is approximately \$125,000, which comes from federal and State sources. In addition, development impact fees are charged for construction within the District's boundaries. The impact fee for construction is \$2.97 per square foot, of which the District receives 58.2 percent.<sup>39</sup>

f. Golden Feather Union School District

The Golden Feather Union School District (GFUSD) provides elementary education to students who reside in approximately 208 square miles of unincorporated county lands to the north and west of Lake Oroville. The GFUSD operates three elementary schools: Spring Valley Elementary School, which serves kindergarten through fourth grade; Concow Elementary School which serves fifth through eighth grade; and Golden Feather Community Day School, which serves kindergarten through eighth grade. Following eighth grade, Golden Feather students attend high school in the Oroville High School District. During the 2008-09 school year there was a combined enrollment of 135 students, which is well under the 350-student capacity of

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<sup>38</sup> Gaston, Susan, District Secretary, Pioneer Union School District, personal communication with Lisa Katz, DC&E, October 8, 2009.

<sup>39</sup> Gaston, Susan, District Secretary, Pioneer Union School District, email communication with Lisa Katz, DC&E, November 10, 2009.

GFUSD.<sup>40</sup> This enrollment is an 18 percent decrease from the 2005-06 enrollment of 159, or approximately eight students per year.<sup>41</sup>

The 2009-10 budget was approximately \$1.6 million, of which a combination of federal, State and local revenues provide funding. Concow Elementary School recently underwent renovations to its water system that were funded by a grant from the State.<sup>42</sup>

g. Gridley Unified School District

The Gridley Unified School (GUSD) offers elementary education to residents of Gridley and the surrounding areas. GUSD is approximately 87 square miles in size and operates the following schools: McKinley Primary School, which serves kindergarten through first grade; Wilson Intermediate Elementary School, which serves second through fifth grades; Sycamore Middle School, which serves sixth through eighth grades; and Gridley High School, which serves ninth through twelfth grades. In addition, an alternative education center contains Esperanza Continuation High School (serving tenth through twelfth grades), Gridley Community Day School (serving kindergarten through twelfth grades), Gridley Home School (serving kindergarten through twelfth grades), and Adult Education.

Enrollment for the 2008-09 school year was 2,055 students. None of the schools are at capacity, but McKinley and Wilson schools are experiencing

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<sup>40</sup> Schmierer, Marge, Administrative Secretary, Golden Feather Union School District, personal communication with Jessica Daniels, DC&E, September 23, 2009.

<sup>41</sup> Butte County Office of Education, <http://www.bcoe.org/home/districts/golden.htm>, accessed December 26, 2006.

<sup>42</sup> Schmierer, Marge, Administrative Secretary, Golden Feather Union School District, personal communication with Jessica Daniels, DC&E, September 23, 2009.

overcrowding as they approach capacity. Enrollment is expected to increase in the 2009-2010 school year.<sup>43</sup>

Gridley High School leases a gymnasium from the Butte County Fairgrounds, which is located across the street, and is operating at close to its enrollment capacity. The high school has accommodated growth through the use of a number of portable classroom buildings. In addition, GUSD owns a 15-acre parcel to the west of Sycamore Middle School that would be an ideal site for a new school.

There have been on-going deferred maintenance and routine repairs due to lack of funding. No major renovations are underway or planned. The 2008-09 budget was approximately \$16 million and is funded by State funds and property taxes. Impact fees for schools levied on new developments in GUSD are \$2.97 for residential projects and \$0.47 for commercial projects.

#### h. Manzanita Elementary School District

The Manzanita Elementary School District (MESD) provides elementary education to the Rancho Boga community area to the south of Gridley. MESD covers approximately 11 square miles and operates a single school, Manzanita Elementary School, with a 2008-09 enrollment of 265 students in kindergarten through eighth grade, just under its capacity of 280 students.<sup>44</sup> This is a slight increase from the 2005-06 enrollment of 250 students.<sup>45</sup> Enrollment during the 2009-10 school year is expected to increase slightly.

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<sup>43</sup>Redfield, Mark, Superintendent, Gridley Unifies School District, personal communication with Jessica Daniels, DC&E. July 29, 2009.

<sup>44</sup> Roberts, Brad, Superintendent, Manzanita Elementary School District, personal communication with Jessica Daniels, DC&E. August 10, 2009.

<sup>45</sup> Butte County Office of Education, <http://www.bcoe.org/home/districts/durham.htm>, accessed December 26, 2006.

The total yearly budget for the MESD is \$1.6 million, and impact fees are consistent with those found elsewhere in the county. There are currently no plans to build new schools or renovate existing schools.

i. Oroville City Elementary School District

The Oroville City Elementary School District (OCESD) offers elementary education to residents of Oroville and the unincorporated county areas east and south of the city. OCESD is approximately 78 square miles in size and operates the following elementary, middle, and special education schools:

- ◆ Bird Street Elementary, kindergarten through fourth grades.
- ◆ Central Middle, seventh through eighth grades and Special Education.
- ◆ Ishi Hills Middle, sixth through eighth grades and Special Education.
- ◆ Oakdale Heights, kindergarten through sixth grades and Special Education.
- ◆ Ophir Elementary, kindergarten through sixth grades and Special Education.
- ◆ Sierra del Oro, pre-school and Special Education.
- ◆ Stanford Avenue Elementary, kindergarten through sixth grades and Special Education.
- ◆ Wyandotte Avenue, kindergarten through sixth grades, Special Education, and Home School.

The eight schools had a combined enrollment of 1,773 students in the 2008-09 school year, which is just under half of the District's total capacity of 3,999 students.<sup>46</sup> OCESD enrollment has declined in over the past 10 years, which could be a result of declining employment in the community. OCESD experienced a total decrease of 628 students from 1998 to 2008.

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<sup>46</sup> Dunn, Andrea, Associate Superintendent, Oroville City Elementary School District, email communication with Lisa Katz, DC&E, November 11, 2009.

In the past, OCESD was unable to house all of the students wishing to attend Oroville City Elementary Schools without the use of re-locatable classrooms and the implementation of multi-track, year-round education. Previously, OCESD also needed to lease 24 State re-locatable classrooms to accommodate all of its students. Two years ago, OCESD closed Eastside Elementary School, a kindergarten through third grade school of approximately 100 students, due to declining student enrollment. OCESD also converted the District's only remaining multi-track, year-round school, Ophir Elementary, back to a traditional schedule for the 2008-09 school year.

The total yearly budget for OCESD in 2008-2009 was \$23 million, a number that declined to approximately \$21 million for the 2009-10 school year. Approximately 80 percent of OCESD's funding comes from State funding, 14 percent comes from the federal government, and 6 percent comes from local funding sources. Impact fees for schools levied on new developments in OCESD are \$1.78 per square foot for residential, \$0.28 for commercial, and \$0.04 per square foot for rental/self storage development.

Despite declining enrollment, a number of facilities improvements and upgrades have recently occurred within the OCESD, including a new middle school, Ishi Hills Middle School, which opened its doors to students in February 2006. The District recently completed the construction of a new multi-purpose building at Ishi Hills in the summer 2008. No other major renovations are currently planned.

j. Oroville Union High School District

The Oroville Union High School District (OUHSD) offers secondary education to a 663-square-mile area that includes Oroville and surrounding unincorporated county areas. OUHSD accepts students from the Bangor Union, Feather Falls Union, Golden Feather Union, Oroville Elementary, Palermo, Pioneer, and Thermalito School Districts. OUHSD operates the following schools:

- ◆ Challenge Charter High School
- ◆ Las Plumas High School

- ◆ Oroville Adult Education Career and Technical Center
- ◆ Oroville High School
- ◆ OUHSD Community Day School
- ◆ Prospect Alternative Center

These schools had a combined enrollment of 2,870 students in the 2008-09 school year.<sup>47</sup> The three high schools had a collective enrollment of 2,702 students during the 2009-09 school year. During the same time, the other schools together had an enrollment of 168 students. OUHSD has experienced continued growth in enrollment, and projects that enrollment will increase slightly during the 2009-10 school year. A number of facilities improvements and upgrades have recently occurred, including the addition of a library, science building and industrial arts building at the Oroville High School, as well as a gym and an agricultural science and arts building at the Las Plumas High School. Modernization of existing buildings has recently occurred at all schools.<sup>48</sup>

k. Palermo Union School District

The Palermo Union School District (PUSD) provides elementary education to approximately 67 square miles of unincorporated county territory to the south of Oroville. PUSD operates five schools: Helen Wilcox, which serves kindergarten through fourth grade and also has a day care center; Honcut Elementary, which serves kindergarten through fourth grade; Golden Hills, which serves fourth and fifth grades; Palermo School, which serves fifth through eighth grades; Palermo Community Day School, which serves kindergarten through sixth grade; and Palermo Community Day School, which serves seventh and eighth grades.

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<sup>47</sup> Watts, Susan, Assistant Superintendent Chief Business Officer, Palermo Union School District, personal communication with Jessica Daniels, DC&E, August 4, 2009.

<sup>48</sup> Watts, Susan, Assistant Superintendent Chief Business Officer, Palermo Union School District, personal communication with Jessica Daniels, DC&E, August 4, 2009.

PUSD had an enrollment of approximately 1,341 students for the 2008-09 school year, which is approaching the capacity of 1,440.<sup>49</sup> Enrollment increased at a rate of 14 students over an eight-year period between 2001-02 and 2008-09. Enrollment is expected to decrease somewhat between the 2008-09 and 2009-10 school years. Following eighth grade, Palermo students attend school in the Oroville High School District.

PUSD recently constructed the Golden Hills School that serves fourth and fifth grades, which has relieved some of its overcrowding. The school features twelve classrooms, playing fields and a multi-purpose room, and was funded through State bonds. In addition, the Helen Wilcox and Palermo Schools recently underwent modernization. No new schools are planned.<sup>50</sup>

The 2009-10 budget is approximately \$11.3 million, of which approximately 65 percent comes from local revenues including property taxes, 13 percent come from federal sources, and 22 percent comes from State revenues. School impact fees are similar to those found in other school districts.

1. Paradise Unified School District

The Paradise Unified School District (PUSD) provides elementary and secondary education to a 220-square-mile area that includes Paradise and unincorporated areas north to Tehama and Plumas Counties. PUSD operates 15 schools and programs as follows:

- ◆ Paradise Pre-School;
- ◆ Children's Community Charter School, which serves kindergarten through eighth grades;
- ◆ Cedarwood and Pines Elementary Schools, which serves kindergarten through fifth grade;

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<sup>49</sup> Shirley, Gail, Business Manager, Palermo Union School District, personal communication with Jessica Daniels, DC&E, July 28, 2009.

<sup>50</sup> Shirley, Gail, Business Manager, Palermo Union School District, personal communication with Jessica Daniels, DC&E, July 28, 2009.

- ◆ Paradise and Ponderosa Elementary Schools, which serves kindergarten through sixth grade;
- ◆ Mountain Ridge Middle and Paradise Charter Middle Schools, which serves sixth through eighth grades;
- ◆ Paradise Intermediate School, which serves seventh and eighth grades;
- ◆ HomeTech Charter School and Independent Learning Center, which serves kindergarten through twelfth grades;
- ◆ Paradise High School, which serves ninth through twelfth grades;
- ◆ Ridgeview High School, a continuation high school serving ninth through twelfth grades;
- ◆ Community Day School, which serves seventh through twelfth grades; and
- ◆ The College Connection program for twelfth grade.

PUSD enrollment in 2008-09 was approximately 4,548.<sup>51</sup> Enrollment in PUSD schools has declined since 1998, particularly at the elementary grades, leaving PUSD substantially under its 5,800-student capacity. Enrollment is expected to decrease through the 2009-10 school year. PUSD is considering constructing a new gym at one of the high schools; otherwise there are no planned improvements or renovations to school facilities.

PUSD's total annual budget is approximately \$45 million, which comes from federal, State and local sources. New schools are funded by the State. The impact fee levied on new development for school facilities is \$2.63 per square feet.

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<sup>51</sup> Stutznegger, Susan, Assistant Superintendent of Financial Services, Paradise Unified School District, personal communication with Jessica Daniels, DC&E, September 16, 2009.

m. Pioneer Union School District

The Pioneer Union School District (PUESD) provides elementary education to the residents of the communities of Berry Creek, Brush Creek, Mountain House, Lake Madrone, and surrounding areas to the north and east of Lake Oroville. PUESD is approximately 129 square miles in area and operates Berry Creek Elementary School and Bald Rock Community School.

PUESD enrollment in 2008-09 was 94 students.<sup>52</sup> Enrollment in PUESD schools has declined over the last decade and is expected to decrease further in 2009-10, leaving PUESD significantly under its maximum capacity of 200 students. PUESD has no planned renovations or improvements to the schools or associated facilities at this time; however, the roof on the Berry Creek School was replaced in the summer of 2009.

PUESD's total annual budget is approximately \$1.4 million, which comes from federal and State sources. In addition, development impact fees are charged for construction within the District's boundaries. The impact fee for construction is \$1.84 per square foot, of which PUESD receives 58.2 percent.<sup>53</sup>

n. Thermalito Union Elementary School District

The Thermalito Union Elementary School District (TUSD) provides elementary education to the community of Thermalito and surrounding areas to the west of Oroville. Combined enrollment in TUSD schools was 1,416 in the 2008-09 school year, which was approximately 200 students under capacity.<sup>54</sup> This is approximately a 3 percent decrease from the 2005-06 school year.<sup>55</sup>

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<sup>52</sup> Gaston, Susan, District Secretary, Pioneer Union School District, personal communication with Lisa Katz, DC&E, October 8, 2009.

<sup>53</sup> Gaston, Susan, District Secretary, Pioneer Union School District, email communication with Lisa Katz, DC&E, November 10, 2009.

<sup>54</sup> Diaz, Julian, Superintendent, Thermalito Union School District, personal communication with Jessica Daniels, DC&E, July 29, 2009.

<sup>55</sup> California Department of Education website, accessed December 26, 2006.

Enrollment is expected to further decrease in the 2009-10 school year.<sup>56</sup> TUSD has a large population of students who do not speak English as a first language and operates a number of special programs to serve the needs of these students. Following eighth grade, Thermalito students attend school in the Oroville Union High School District.

TUSD operates four conventional schools, two day schools and a home study program.<sup>57</sup> Each conventional school is discussed below:<sup>58</sup>

- ◆ Poplar Avenue School, located at Poplar Avenue and 20<sup>th</sup> Street, serves roughly 260 students in kindergarten through fifth grade.
- ◆ Sierra Avenue School, located at Sierra Avenue and 12<sup>th</sup> Street, serves approximately 300 students in kindergarten through fifth grade.
- ◆ Plumas Avenue School, located at Plumas Avenue and 5<sup>th</sup> Street, serves roughly 340 students in kindergarten through fifth grade.
- ◆ Nelson Avenue Middle School, located at 6<sup>th</sup> Street and Nelson Avenue serves approximately 503 students in sixth through eighth grade.

Although there have been declines in enrollment over the past two years, TUSD has accommodated increasing enrollment in the past through the addition of portable classroom facilities. There are discussions about adding a new school serving kindergarten through twelfth grades and a new high school if enrollment increases over the next decade. Otherwise, no major renovations are planned for existing schools in TUSD.<sup>59</sup>

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<sup>56</sup> Diaz, Julian, Superintendent, Thermalito Union School District, personal communication with Jessica Daniels, DC&E, July 29, 2009.

<sup>57</sup> Thermalito Union School District, <http://www.thermalito.org/default.htm>, accessed September 24, 2009.

<sup>58</sup> Thermalito Union School District, <http://thermalito.schoolwisepress.com/home/>, accessed September 24, 2009.

<sup>59</sup> Diaz, Julian, Superintendent, Thermalito Union School District, personal communication with Jessica Daniels, DC&E, July 29, 2009.

TUSD's total annual budget is approximately \$12.7 million, of which 54 percent comes from State sources, 45 percent is from categorical federal and State funds, and 1 percent is from local sources. New schools are funded through State funding, local bonds, and impact fees. Impact fees are approximately \$3 per square foot.

## 2. Standards of Significance

General Plan 2030 would have a significant impact with regard to schools if it would:

- ◆ Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered school facilities, or result in the need for new or physically altered school facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives.

## 3. Impact Discussion

The following discussion provides an analysis of potential project and cumulative school impacts that could occur as a result of the projected 2030 buildout of General Plan 2030.

### a. Project Impacts

- i. Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered school facilities, or result in the need for new or physically altered school facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives.*

Many of the school districts located in Butte County, including Bangor Union Elementary, Biggs Unified, Chico Unified, Oroville Union High, Palermo Union, and Paradise Unified School Districts, do not have adequate capacity for the number of new students that would be generated by implementation of General Plan 2030. The capacity for population growth allowed by General Plan 2030 for each district is as follows:

- ◆ **Bangor Union Elementary School District.** General Plan 2030 would result in up to 100 new students within the BUESD, which, according to the District, cannot be accommodated by existing facilities.<sup>60</sup>
- ◆ **Biggs Unified School District.** General Plan 2030 would result in up to 300 new students within the BUSD. Because school capacity information for BUSD is not available, this EIR assumes that these new students could not be accommodated by existing facilities in order to provide a conservative analysis of General Plan 2030.
- ◆ **Chico Unified School District.** General Plan 2030 would result in up to 2,000 new students within the CUSD, which, according to the District, cannot be accommodated by existing facilities.<sup>61</sup>
- ◆ **Durham Unified School District.** DUSD has the capacity for 923 additional students,<sup>62</sup> and General Plan 2030 would result in up to 300 new students in the District. Therefore, the new students foreseeable under General Plan 2030 could be accommodated within existing facilities.
- ◆ **Feather Falls Union School District.** FFUSD has the capacity for 378 additional students,<sup>63</sup> and General Plan 2030 would result in up to 50 new students in the District. Therefore, the new students foreseeable under General Plan 2030 could be accommodated within existing facilities.

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<sup>60</sup> Arnold, Paul, Superintendent, Bangor Elementary Union School District, personal communication with Jessica Daniels, DC&E, July 28, 2009.

<sup>61</sup> Weissenborn, Michael, Facilities Planner, Chico Unified School District, personal communication with Lisa Katz, DC&E, September 1, 2009.

<sup>62</sup> Cavanaugh, Connie, Business Manager, Durham Unified School District, personal communication with Jessica Daniels, DC&E, August 6, 2009.

<sup>63</sup> Gaston, Susan, School Secretary, Pioneer Union School District, responding for Feather Falls Unified School District, personal communication with Lisa Katz, DC&E, November 10, 2009.

- ◆ **Golden Feather Union School District.** GFUSD has the capacity for 215 additional students,<sup>64</sup> and General Plan 2030 would result in up to 100 new students within the District. Therefore, the new students foreseeable under General Plan 2030 could be accommodated within existing facilities.
- ◆ **Gridley Unified School District.** GFUSD has the capacity for 257 additional students,<sup>65</sup> and General Plan 2030 would result in up to 100 new students within the District. Therefore, the new students foreseeable under General Plan 2030 could be accommodated within existing facilities.
- ◆ **Manzanita Elementary School District.** MESD has the capacity for 15 additional students,<sup>66</sup> and General Plan 2030 would result in up to 20 new students within the District. However, the District anticipates that MESD could accommodate the five additional students.<sup>67</sup> Therefore, the new students foreseeable under General Plan 2030 could be accommodated within existing facilities.
- ◆ **Oroville City Elementary School District.** OCESD has the capacity for 2,226 additional students,<sup>68</sup> and General Plan 2030 would result in up to 1,500 new students within the District. Therefore, the new students foreseeable under General Plan 2030 could be accommodated within existing facilities.

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<sup>64</sup> Schmierer, Marge, Administrative Secretary, Golden Feather Union School District, personal communication with Jessica Daniels, DC&E, August 18, 2009.

<sup>65</sup> Redfield, Clark, School Superintendent, Gridley Unified School District, personal communication with Jessica Daniels, DC&E, July 29, 2009.

<sup>66</sup> Roberts, Brad, School Superintendent, Manzanita Elementary School District, personal communication with Jessica Daniels, DC&E, August 10, 2009.

<sup>67</sup> Roberts, Brad, School Superintendent, Manzanita Elementary School District, personal communication with Jessica Daniels, DC&E, August 10, 2009.

<sup>68</sup> Dunn, Andrea, Associate Superintendent, Oroville City Elementary School District, email communication with Lisa Katz, DC&E, November 11, 2009.

- ◆ **Oroville Union High School District.** General Plan 2030 would result in up to 1,450 new students within the OUHSD, which, according to the District, cannot be accommodated by existing facilities.<sup>69</sup>
- ◆ **Palermo Union School District.** General Plan 2030 would result in up to 1,300 new students within the PUSD, which, according to the District, cannot be accommodated by existing facilities.<sup>70</sup>
- ◆ **Paradise Unified School District.** General Plan 2030 would result in up to 450 new students within the PUSD. Because school capacity information for PUSD is not available, this EIR assumes that these new students could not be accommodated by existing facilities in order to provide a conservative analysis of General Plan 2030.
- ◆ **Pioneer Union School District.** PUSD has the capacity for 106 additional students,<sup>71</sup> and General Plan 2030 would result in up to 50 new students within the District. Therefore, the new students foreseeable under General Plan 2030 could be accommodated within existing facilities.
- ◆ **Thermalito Union Elementary School District.** TUESD has the capacity for 184 additional students,<sup>72</sup> and General Plan 2030 would result in up to 150 new students within the District. Therefore, the new students foreseeable under General Plan 2030 could be accommodated within existing facilities.

As shown above, population growth foreseeable under General Plan 2030 would cause the need for new or expanded facilities, staff or infrastructure within the Bangor Union Elementary, Biggs Unified, Chico Unified, Oroville

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<sup>69</sup> Shirley, Gail, Business Manager, Palermo Union School District, personal communication with Jessica Daniels, DC&E, July 28, 2009.

<sup>70</sup> Watts, Susan, Assistant Superintendent, Oroville Union High School District, personal communication with Jessica Daniels, DC&E, August 4, 2009.

<sup>71</sup> Gaston, Susan, School Secretary, Pioneer Union School District, personal communication with Lisa Katz, DC&E, October 8, 2009.

<sup>72</sup> Diaz, Julian, Superintendent, Thermalito Union Elementary School District, personal communication with Jessica Daniels, DC&E, July 29, 2009.

Union High, Palermo Union, and Paradise Unified School Districts. The location of new and expanded facilities to serve the additional students in Butte County is not known at this time. As a result, it cannot be determined what project-specific environmental impacts would occur from their construction and operation. These potential impacts would be identified during the facility site selection process.

California Government Code Sections 65995 (h) and 65996 (b) provide mitigation for impacts to school facilities. Such mitigation measures include fees, charges, or requirements levied against construction, pursuant to Section 17620 of the Education Code.

In addition, General Plan 2030 contains a number of policies that provide for adequate public school facilities to meet future demand. In particular, Public Facilities and Services Element Policy PUB-P4.7 requires that new development be approved only if the County and the applicable school district finds that existing or planned schools will be adequate to serve it. In addition, Policies PUB-P4.1 and PUB-P4.2 require that the review of development proposals be coordinated with school districts to determine and plan for capacity issues over time, and to decide on the location and design of new schools. Policy PUB-P4.3 requires that plans for future growth areas incorporate new school sites as appropriate. Policy PUB-P4.5 requires that the County provide information about projected population growth and development patterns to school districts to ensure adequate school facilities. Finally, Policy PUB-P4.6 requires that school districts 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.

As a result of the proposed policies, and consistent with State law on the determination of impacts to school facilities, school impacts would be *less than significant*.

b. Cumulative Impacts

Future regional growth would result in increased demand for additional school facilities within the region, including for new school facilities outside of the county limits. For some Butte County school districts, population growth within the incorporated municipalities would further contribute to the need for new or expanded facilities. However, as with the project-level analysis in Section C.3.a, it is unknown exactly where these new school facilities and expansions would occur to support the cumulative increase in population. As specific school expansion or improvement projects are identified, additional project-specific, environmental analysis would be completed. As a result, cumulative impacts to schools would be considered *less than significant*.

**4. Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

Since there are no significant impacts related to schools as a result of General Plan 2030, no mitigation measures are required.

*D. Library*

This section describes current conditions and potential impacts of the proposed General Plan 2030 with regard to library services in Butte County.

**1. Existing Conditions**

The Butte County Library has served as an important cultural and educational resource for the people of Butte County for nearly a century. The Butte County Library provides library services to all county residents through a consolidated operation from its main library in Oroville and branches in Biggs, Chico, Durham, Gridley and Paradise. Libraries are in the following locations:

- ◆ Oroville Branch Library, 1820 Mitchell Avenue, Oroville
- ◆ Biggs Branch Library, 464A B Street, Biggs
- ◆ Chico Branch Library, 1108 Sherman Avenue, Chico
- ◆ Durham Branch Library, 2545 Durham-Dayton Highway
- ◆ Gridley Branch Library, 299 Spruce Street, Gridley
- ◆ Paradise Branch Library, 5922 Clark Road, Paradise

The Butte County Library houses a collection of over 330,000 items, including books, videos, DVDs, music CDs, and books on tape and CD. The Library is a member of the 13-county North State Cooperative Library System, a network of public and academic libraries that pools resources for interlibrary loan service, access to specialized reference services, and cooperative planning for regional service. Library facilities currently lack sufficient staff and technology to operate at full capacity. However, the library branches continue to provide additional programs such as children's story time, book discussions for adults, and film screenings, which are coordinated and led by library staff and volunteers.<sup>73</sup>

The Oroville and Chico Branches recently underwent minor renovations in the form of new carpeting in their Community Meeting Rooms. However, there are no additional renovations planned until the 2015-2016 fiscal year, when the Capital Improvement Plan projects that an expansion and renovation of library building systems and components will be required. Library revenue includes County General Funds, fines and fees, donations, State grants, and contracted programs. In fiscal year 2008-2009, the Library provided library services to over 750,000 visitors and checked out over 910,000 items.<sup>74</sup> Butte County Library currently does not follow any service standards; however, the Library Advisory Board is currently in the process of creating a new strategic plan for guiding the future direction of library services in Butte County.<sup>75</sup>

## 2. Standards of Significance

General Plan 2030 would have a significant impact with regard to library services if it would:

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<sup>73</sup> Holmes, Deborah, Senior Administrative Assistant, Butte County Library, personal communication with Jessica Daniels, DC&E, August 5, 2009.

<sup>74</sup> Holmes, Deborah, Senior Administrative Assistant, Butte County Library, personal communication with Jessica Daniels, DC&E, August 18, 2009.

<sup>75</sup> Holmes, Deborah, Senior Administrative Assistant, Butte County Library, personal communication with Jessica Daniels, DC&E, September 30, 2009.

- ◆ Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered library facilities, or result in the need for new or physically altered library facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives.

### 3. Impact Discussion

The following discussion provides an analysis of potential project and cumulative library service impacts that could occur as a result of implementation of the projected 2030 buildout of General Plan 2030.

#### a. Project Impacts

- i. Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered library facilities, or result in the need for new or physically altered library facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives.*

The proposed General Plan 2030 would result in an increase in population and, thus, library usage in Butte County. New or expanded library facilities would likely be needed to serve new development allowed by General Plan 2030. However, the location of new and expanded library services is not known at this time. As a result, it cannot be determined what project-specific environmental impacts would occur from their construction and operation. These potential impacts would be identified during the facility site selection process. In addition, General Plan 2030 requires that County facilities be designed, constructed, and operated to be environmentally sustainable and beneficial to the community and the region through Policy PUB-P1.2.

General Plan 2030 also includes policies and actions that seek to ensure that adequate services and facilities are funded to meet increasing demand. Public Facilities and Services Element PUB-P5.1 directs that the County's library operations funding be maintained or expanded. Action PUB-A5.1 directs the County to identify opportunities to partner with municipalities, other agencies, and library support organizations in providing library facilities and services, and Action PUB-A5.2 directs the County to pursue joint-use agree-

ments with schools, universities, colleges, social service agencies, cultural institutions, and other organizations in communities to provide services where County library facilities are infeasible.

As a result of the proposed policies, library service impacts would be *less than significant*.

b. Cumulative Impacts

Future regional growth would result in increased demand for library facilities throughout the region. As a result, neighboring jurisdictions would also most likely need to expand library facilities to meet the increased demand. However, as with the project-level analysis in Section D.3.a, it is unknown exactly where these new library facilities and expansions would occur to support the cumulative increase in population. As specific library expansion or improvement projects are identified, additional project-specific, environmental analysis would be completed. As a result, a *less-than-significant* cumulative impact associated with libraries would occur.

**4. Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

Since there are no significant impacts related to library services as a result of General Plan 2030, no mitigation measures are required.

*E. Parks and Recreation*

This section describes current conditions and potential impacts of the proposed General Plan 2030 with regard to parks and recreation in Butte County.

**1. Regulatory Framework**

Since the passage of the 1975 Quimby Act (California Government Code Section 66477), cities and counties have been authorized to pass ordinances requiring that developers set aside land, donate conservation easements, or pay fees for park improvements. Revenues generated through the Quimby Act

cannot be used for the operation and maintenance of park facilities.<sup>76</sup> A 1982 amendment (AB 1600) requires agencies to clearly show a reasonable relationship between the public need for the recreation facility or park land and the type of development project upon which the fee is imposed. Jurisdictions with a high ratio of park space to inhabitants can set a standard of up to 5 acres per 1,000 persons for new development. Jurisdictions with a lower ratio can only require the provision of up to 3 acres of park space per 1,000 residents. The calculation of a jurisdiction's park space to population ratio is based on a comparison of the population count of the last US Census to the amount of publicly owned parkland. In Butte County, park and recreation districts use a level of service ratio of 5 acres of usable park land per 1,000 residents.<sup>77</sup>

## 2. Existing Conditions

A wide range of recreational facilities and recreational programs are found in Butte County, offering numerous recreational opportunities to local residents and visitors. Most public recreational facilities and parks in the unincorporated county are owned and/or managed by one of five large independent special districts, or by a various local, State and federal agencies, sometimes in joint arrangements. Others, including some facilities located within the municipalities, are owned and managed by the municipalities themselves. This section describes all of these various types of recreational facilities in Butte County.

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<sup>76</sup> Westrup, Laura, 2002, *Quimby Act 101: An Abbreviated Overview*, Sacramento: California Department of Parks and Recreation, available at <http://www.parks.ca.gov/pages/795/files/quimby101.pdf>.

<sup>77</sup> Chico Area Recreation and Park District, November 2008, *Parks and Recreation Master Plan*, page 3-17; Paradise Recreation and Park District, December 2001, *Parks and Recreation Master Plan*, page 13; and Visconti, Steve, Director, Chico Area Recreation and Park District, personal communication with Dan Breedon, Principal Planner, Butte County Department of Development Services, March 3, 2010.

a. Federal and State Parks, Campgrounds and Reserves

Various federal and State agencies manage lands and facilities that offer important recreation opportunities within the county, as shown in Figure 4.12-2.

i. *US Forest Service*

Butte County contains approximately 133,687 acres of forest and public domain range lands administered by the US Forest Service. Two National Forests extend into portions of Butte County: Plumas National Forest and Lassen National Forest. In addition, a 209-acre research center just outside of Chico is administered by the Mendocino National Forest. National forests are managed for multiple uses and emphasize dispersed recreation opportunities.

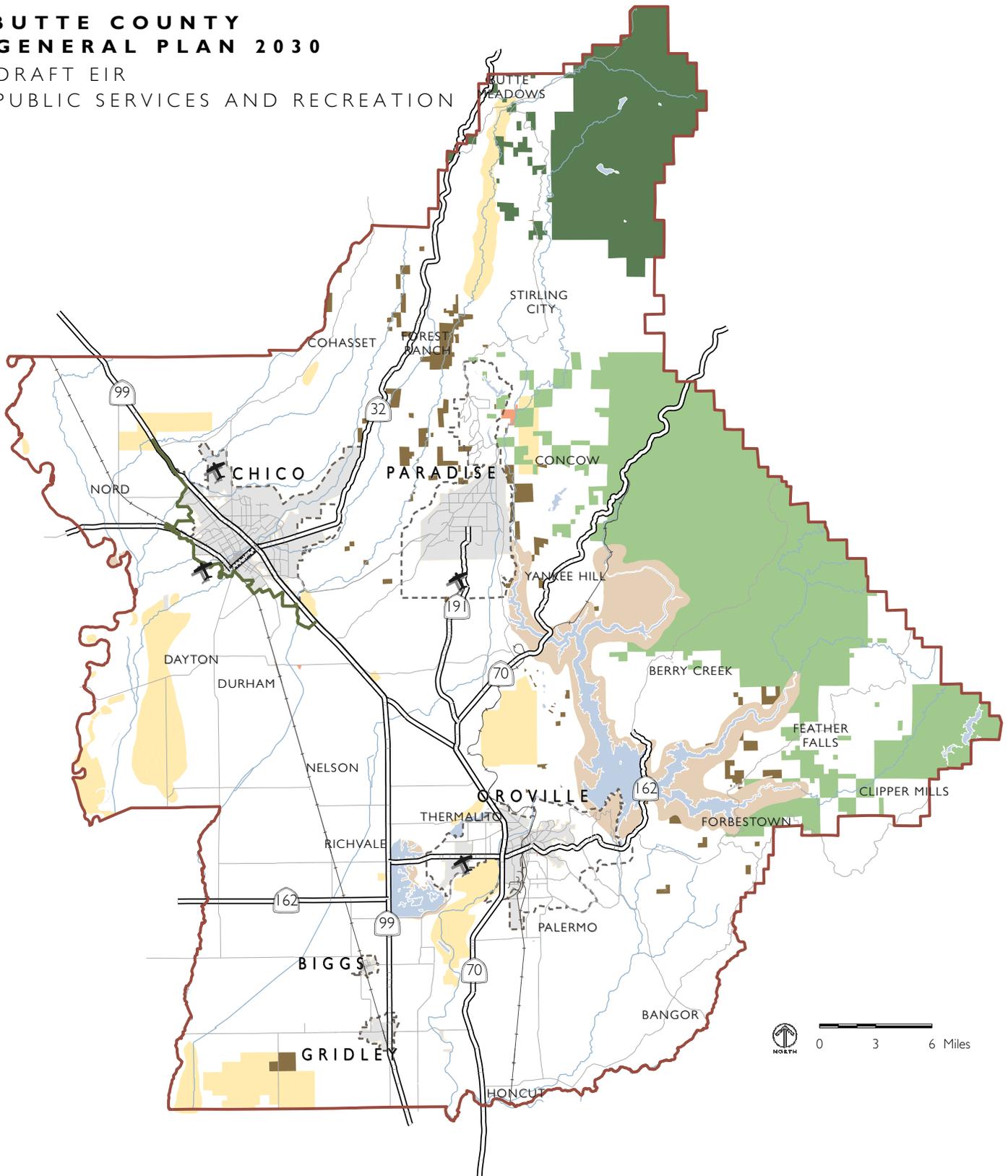
ii. *Bureau of Land Management*

The US Bureau of Land Management (BLM) owns 18,600 acres in Butte County, consisting primarily of scattered foothill lands. The majority of BLM land falls within the “Forks of Butte Creek” subsection of the Ishi Management Area. BLM has designated its holdings on the Butte Creek canyon from above the Forks of Butte Creek to Helltown as an Outstanding Natural Area. In the upper Butte Creek canyon area, the Forks of Butte Creek Recreation Area is the only public access site for recreation. This area provides hiking, fishing, tubing, kayaking, picnicking, and camping, among other activities. In addition to these facilities, BLM manages about 120 acres near Magalia that include a series of nature trails.

iii. *State Parks and Recreation Areas*

Existing State Parks and Recreation Areas include the Lake Oroville State Recreation Area, which encompasses 47,000 acres, and twelve separate recreation areas. Two wildlife management areas are operated by the State, including the Oroville State Wildlife Area, near Lake Oroville, and the Grey Lodge State Waterfowl Management Area, located southwest of Gridley. The Grey Lodge is one of the most developed waterfowl marshlands in the nation, created primarily as winter habitat area and to provide feeding and resting areas for migratory waterfowl coming into the valley.

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Source: Butte County GIS, 2009.

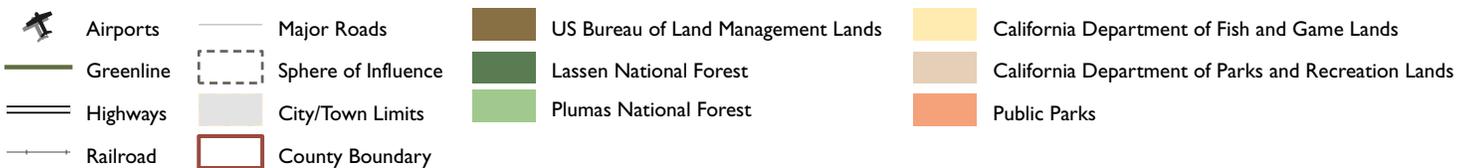


FIGURE 4.12-2  
**FEDERAL AND STATE RECREATION LANDS**

The Bidwell River Park, west of Chico, is a 180-acre park with amenities including boat launches and picnic tables. This park is popular with recreationists, serving 500 visitors daily.

b. Wild and Scenic Rivers

A 77.6-mile portion of the Middle Fork of the Feather River has federal Wild and Scenic River status. This river is located within the boundaries of the Plumas National Forest. The wild and scenic designation covers 24,000 acres, generally within a 1/8- to 1/4-mile band along the river, and extends from Beckworth in the Sierra Valley (Plumas County) to Lake Oroville. Approximately 10.5 miles of this wild and scenic river flow through Butte County. The river represents a unique free-flowing stream that is the only charter member of the National Wild and Scenic River System in California.

c. Special Districts

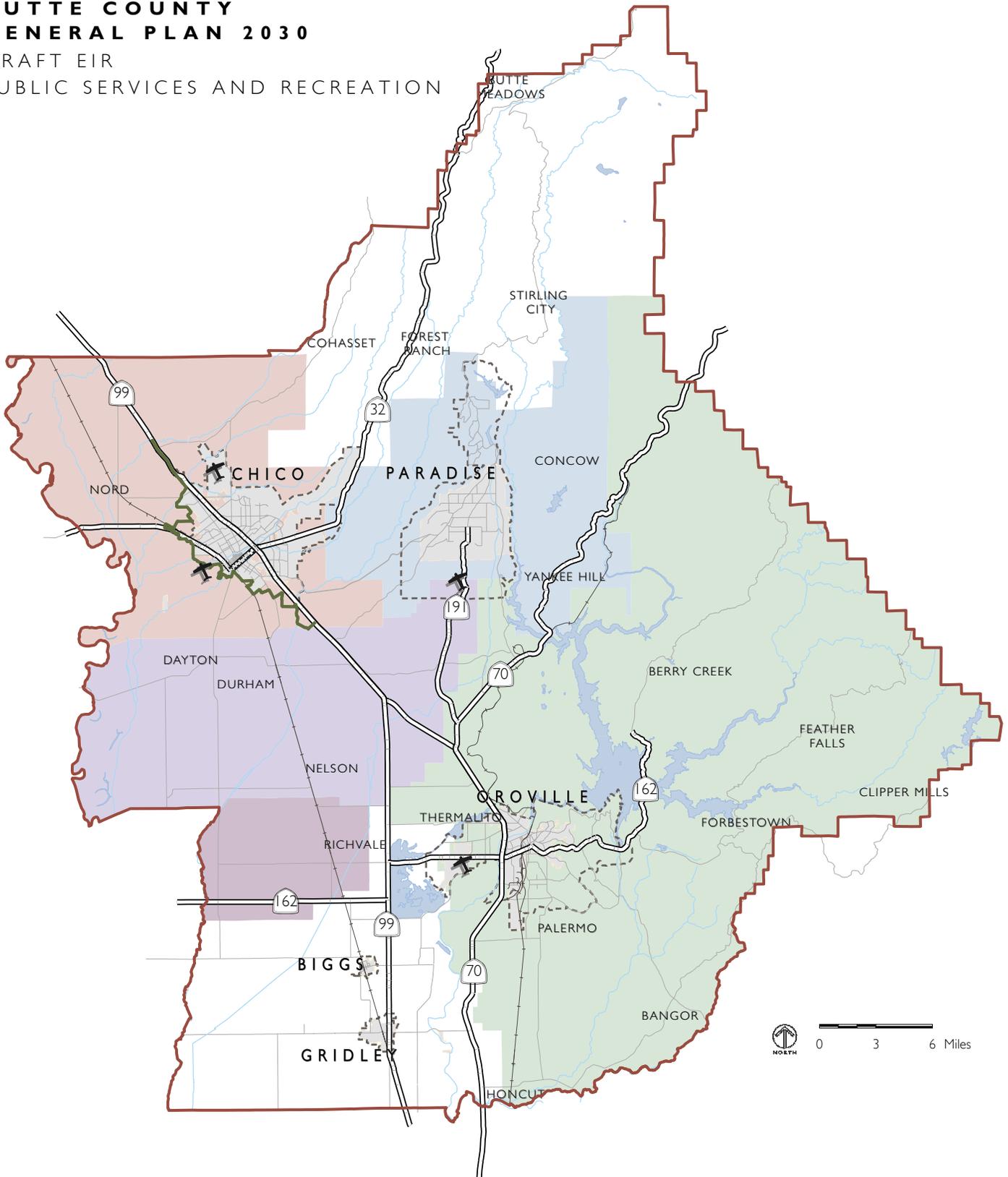
Five large special independent districts maintain many of the parks and recreational facilities in Butte County. These districts, which encompass most of the County's land area, operate as independent districts, meaning that each district is governed by a board of directors elected by the voters in that 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 Special Districts, which are shown in Figure 4.12-3, are as follows:

- ◆ Chico Area Recreation and Park District (CARD)
- ◆ Feather River Recreation and Park District (FRRPD)
- ◆ Paradise Recreation and Park District (PRPD)
- ◆ Durham Recreation and Park District (DRPD)
- ◆ Richvale Recreation and Park District (RRPD)

d. Local Agency Parks and Recreation Facilities

This section describes the park and recreation facilities that are provided by local agencies, including the special districts, municipalities and other agencies.

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Source: Butte County GIS, 2009.

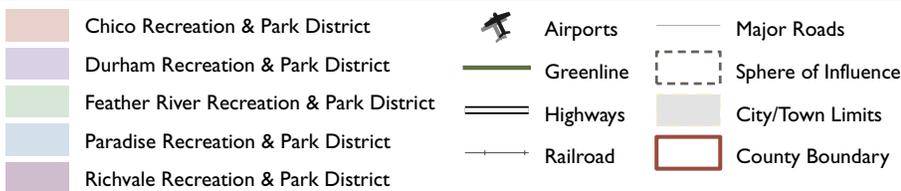


FIGURE 4.12-3  
**RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICTS**

*i. Chico Area*

Facilities encompassed within the 163,200-acre geographic area of CARD, including those within the City of Chico and surrounding area, are owned and operated variously by the CARD, the City of Chico, and other local entities, including California State University, Chico, and the Chico Unified School District. One of the most notable recreational amenities in this area is the 3,600-acre Bidwell Park, owned by the City of Chico. Bidwell park is the largest city park in the entire country. Other large parks include the CARD Community Park and the City-owned Hooker Oak Recreation Area. Many other smaller parks are owned and operated by the City and by CARD. Also, the Chico Unified School District operates a number of ballfields and athletic fields. CARD manages approximately 147 acres as parkland, of which 131 acres are developed parkland.

CARD maintains a Parks Master Plan that is currently being updated. The Master Plan contains goals for locating parks within specified service areas. In the case of community parks, the maximum service area is 1 mile; for neighborhood parks, it is 0.5 miles.<sup>78</sup> In addition, the existing and new Master Plans call for specific ratios of park space to CARD inhabitants, as shown in Table 4.12-1. CARD is close to meeting its existing goal for community parks, which is 1.6 acres per 1,000 inhabitants, but once the Master Plan is updated, the ratio will increase to 2.5 acres per 1,000 inhabitants, and CARD will fall short of its goal. As shown in Table 4.12-1, there is an existing shortage of neighborhood parks, and this condition will continue under the new goal that will be established under the updated Master Plan. Greenways are in adequate supply according to the current Master Plan, and the City of Chico will take responsibility for them under the updated Master Plan.

Funding for parks in CARD comes from property taxes, City Redevelopment Area funds, and grants. Some Landscape and Lighting Assessment

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<sup>78</sup> Visconti, Steve, General Manager, Chico Area Recreation and Park District, personal communication with Jessica Daniels, DC&E, July 28, 2009.

TABLE 4.12-1 **CARD MASTER PLAN RATIO OF PARK SPACE TO INHABITANTS**

	Previous Master Plan Goal	Current Achieved	Updated Master Plan Goal
Community Parks	1.6 acres/1,000 inhabitants	1.56 acres/1,000 inhabitants	2.5 acres/1,000 inhabitants
Neighborhood Parks	0.9 acres/1,000 inhabitants	0.37/1,000 inhabitants	1.5 acres/1,000 inhabitants
Greenways	2.5 acres/1,000 inhabitants	2.67 acres/1,000 inhabitants	N/A*

\* The Chico Area Recreation District will remove greenways from its updated Master Plan. The City of Chico will be responsible for these facilities.  
 Source: Chico Area Recreation District, 2009.

Districts (LLAD) are used to raise additional funds. However, the CARD is currently close to maximum staff afforded by its current revenue stream.<sup>79</sup>

Approximately \$2,400 per new residential home is collected as developer impact fees to acquire and develop new parkland for CARD. CARD also shares facilities with the Chico Unified School District, although there is no formal agreement.<sup>80</sup>

*ii. Oroville Area*

Recreation facilities within the FRRPD are owned and operated by various local agencies including the FRRPD, the City of Oroville, and several school districts located within this area. Significant recreation facilities in the FRRPD are: Riverbend Park, a District-owned facility along the Feather River in Oroville; Mitchell Park, also in Oroville; and the Forbestown Park and Community Center that serves the Forbestown area. Numerous other

<sup>79</sup> Visconti, Steve, General Manager, Chico Area Recreation and Park District, personal communication with Jessica Daniels, DC&E, July 28, 2009.

<sup>80</sup> Visconti, Steve, General Manager, Chico Area Recreation and Park District, personal communication with Jessica Daniels, DC&E, July 28 and September 24, 2009.

smaller parks that offer a variety of active and passive recreational opportunities are located throughout the area, serving neighborhoods in and around the City of Oroville and other population centers. The FRRPD manages approximately 264 acres as parkland, of which 137 acres are developed parkland.

*iii. Paradise Area*

The recreation facilities within the 108,160-acre area of the PRPD, including those within the Town of Paradise and its surrounding area, are owned and operated variously by the PRPD, the Town of Paradise, and other local entities, including the Paradise and Golden Feather School Districts. Included among these facilities are the 320-acre Coutolenc Park in Magalia and the Paradise Memorial Trailway, a 4-mile paved trail along the old railroad line in Paradise. Facilities owned by the Paradise Irrigation District and the Bureau of Land Management serve a secondary role as recreational resources for PRPD. The PRPD manages approximately 434 acres as parkland, of which 76 acres are developed parkland.

The PRPD has plans for new or expanded recreational facilities, including a new 20-acre park in the Magalia area, a new 8-acre park in the Concow area, and the Terry Ashe Recreation Center Renovation Project, which will increase the size of the Center by 10 percent. Construction of the renovation project is underway and the expansion is 20 percent complete.<sup>81</sup>

The PRPD's current ratio of parkland to inhabitants is 1.5 acres per 1,000 people, and its goal is 5 acres per 1,000 people. The PRPD has not established a standard for the average or maximum distance between residential property and a park or recreational facility, but the PRPD has six planning areas that are based on such factors, including geography, location to population centers, and distance to existing parks.<sup>82</sup>

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<sup>81</sup> Trinca, Mike, District Manager, Paradise Recreation and Park District, personal communication with Lisa Katz, DC&E, July 9, 2009.

<sup>82</sup> Brinson, James F., District Manager, Durham Recreation and Park District, personal communication with Lisa Katz, DC&E, July 15, 2009.

Funding for new parks comes from a combination of grants, private donations, impact fees, and other public agencies. Grants come from both federal and State sources. The developer impact fee for parks and recreation is \$0.50 per square foot.

*iv. Durham Area*

Facilities within the 140,800-acre area of the DRPD, including those within the community of Durham and its surrounding area, are owned and operated by the DRPD and other local entities, such as the Butte-Glenn Community College District and the Durham Unified School District. The most prominent amenity in the Durham area is Butte Community College, which provides 234 acres of recreational land that includes sport courts and athletic fields. The DRPD manages approximately 34 acres as parkland, all of which are developed parkland.

The DRPD's stated goal of park space to inhabitants is 5 acres per 1,000 residents. The DRPD currently has a ratio of 1.5 acres per 1,000 residents.<sup>83</sup> At present, the DRPD has not established a standard for the average or maximum distance between residential property and a park or recreational facility. Currently, 35 percent of residential properties are located within 0.5-mile of a DRPD park, while 55 percent are located within 1 mile.<sup>84</sup>

A new Master Plan is currently being developed for the DPRD, within which new goals and standards will be established for the DPRD. The DRPD's programs, facilities and staff are fully funded through impact fees, local property taxes and user fees. There are plans for a multi-use facility that would provide gym space for the DRPD's programs and allow for additional programs in the future.

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<sup>83</sup> Brinson, James F., District Manager, Durham Recreation and Park District, personal communication with Lisa Katz, DC&E, July 15, 2009.

<sup>84</sup>Butte County LAFCO, March 2005, *Municipal Service Review, Recreation and Parks*, prepared by Cotton Bridges Associates.

*v. Richvale Area*

The RRPD encompasses approximately 6,400 acres and includes the unincorporated community of Richvale, an area which is primarily rural in nature.<sup>85</sup> There are no recreational facilities that are owned by the RRPD, County, or other local entities. Rather, RRPD has a joint use agreement with the Biggs Unified School District through which 2 acres of parkland, as well as facilities including a picnic area, tennis courts, basketball courts, softball field, and recreation room, are shared with the Richvale Elementary School. Residents in the RRPD wishing to participate in recreational leagues travel to Biggs or Durham. However, as part of an effort to offer more active recreational amenities in the area, the RRPD is developing a walking trail as part of an existing park located within central Richvale.<sup>86</sup>

Funding for RRPD comes strictly from grants, which limits its ability to hire and maintain paid staff. However, a non-profit hunting club regularly contributes funds, supplementing the RRPD's budget annually. Facilities will need to be expanded to address existing and future needs of the population, but RRPD faces difficulties in obtaining grant funding due to the lack of employees.

RRPD does not have a standard for the ratio of the amount of parkland to the number of inhabitants, but works with the school district to determine the needs for parks and recreational facilities. The 2 acres of parkland available in RRPD roughly translates to 3 acres per 1,000 inhabitants. Approximately 84 percent of residents in the RRPD live within 1 mile of the parkland.

*vi. Gridley and Biggs Area*

No special recreation and park district serves the Gridley or Biggs areas. However, two Community Service Areas operate swimming pools that serve

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<sup>85</sup>Butte Local Agency Formation Committee, *Municipal Service Review Update and Sphere of Influence Plan for Richvale Recreation and Park District*, April 2009.

<sup>86</sup>Lundberg, Eric, Richvale Recreation and Parks District, personal communication with Jessica Daniels, DC&E, August 6, 2009.

these communities. The pools are owned by Butte County. The Fairgrounds operate the Olympic-size swimming pool in Gridley, and the Biggs Unified School District operates the community swimming pool in Biggs.

e. Trails

A number of developed recreational trails are found in Butte County, many of which are located within the National Forest lands in the foothills of eastern Butte County. These include two National trails, as follows:

- ◆ **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 receives high use, as this trail provides continuous recreational access from Canada to Mexico.
- ◆ **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.

In addition, a 17.5-mile loop trail at Loafer Creek and portions of the Freeman Trail are accessible for equestrian and bicycle riding at Lake Oroville State Recreation Area. The California Hiking and Equestrian Trail, which is maintained by the California Department of Parks and Recreation, provides pedestrian and equestrian recreational opportunities in the Oroville area. Within the Chico Recreation and Park District, a system of trails serves the Chico urban area, and trails are also found within the Lake Oroville State Recreation Area and other City, State, and District-managed parks and recreation lands.

### 3. Standards of Significance

General Plan 2030 would have a significant impact with regard to parks and recreation if it would:

- ◆ Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated; or
- ◆ Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered park facilities, or result in the need for new or physically altered park facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios or other performance objectives.

#### 4. Impact Discussion

The following discussion provides an analysis of potential project and cumulative park and recreation impacts that could occur as a result of the projected 2030 buildout of General Plan 2030.

##### a. Project Impacts

- i. Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated.*

Differing standards are used to evaluate what amount of parkland is “adequate” to serve a particular population. As indicated in Section E.1, the Quimby Act allows cities and counties to require land or in-lieu fees for a minimum of 3 acres per 1,000 residents. However, the park and recreation districts within Butte County use a level of service ratio of 5 acres of usable parkland per 1,000 people. There are over 1 million acres of open space and parkland in the county and approximately 618,000 acres of open space and parkland in unincorporated Butte County serving an existing population of 83,900 residents. On average, park and recreation facilities in Butte County exceed the Quimby Act minimum standard of 3 acres per 1,000 residents. In part, this is accomplished through joint-use agreements with school districts to obtain access to sports fields, basketball, tennis, gymnasiums, and other recreational facilities. However, there are only approximately 70 acres of developed parkland within unincorporated Butte County that are considered

“usable” parks by the County’s parks and recreation districts.<sup>87</sup> In addition, Butte College owns and operates approximately 230 acres of developed parkland, for a total of approximately 300 acres of developed parkland in unincorporated Butte County. This results in a level of service ratio of 3.6 acres of developed parkland per 1,000 residents, which does not meet the local park and recreation district standard.

New residents generated by development under General Plan 2030 would increase the demand for recreational opportunities and facilities; this demand would be distributed throughout the county. Because development would be distributed throughout the county and there are substantial existing open space amenities available in Butte County, it is unlikely that any single recreational facility would experience significant physical deterioration from an increase in demand. In addition, as described below, General Plan 2030 includes a number of policies that promote the development of new parks; these parks would serve new residents and reduce impacts to existing facilities.

Policies in General Plan 2030 ensure that park and recreational facilities are funded so that they can be adequately maintained. Policy PUB-P6.3 requires that new residential development be assessed for Quimby Act fees to support park development. Action PUB-A6.1 directs the County to use 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. Action PUB-A7.1 directs the County to identify strategies to assist special districts with funding, planning, and support for recreation and park facility development, and to establish a plan for the distribution of federal and State funds for recreation and park programs and facilities.

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<sup>87</sup> This is based on data provided to Dan Breedon, Principal Planner, Butte County Department of Development Services, by Steve Visconti, Director, Chico Area Recreation and Parks District, Mike Trinca, Director, Paradise Recreation and Parks District, and Jim Brinson, Director, Durham Recreation and Park District on October 30, 2009.

Other General Plan 2030 policies ensure that new parkland and recreational facilities are developed to accommodate the growing population, which would help to avoid deterioration of existing facilities. Policy PUB-P6.1 directs the County to coordinate the review of development proposals with other agencies in order to designate sites for new parks and recreation facilities. Policy PUB-P6.4 allows density increases when small parks are incorporated into development projects. Policy PUB-P6.5 encourages permanently-protected and maintained open space in new development using mechanisms such as conservation easements and development agreements. Policy PUB-P7.1 directs the County to cooperate with the 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.

New residents resulting from the proposed General Plan 2030 would increase the use of existing facilities throughout the county, but this increase in users would not cause significant physical deterioration to any single recreational facility because General Plan 2030 promotes the development of new park facilities that would serve new residents. In addition, General Plan 2030 includes a number of policies that address funding for park facilities. Therefore, the proposed project would result in a *less-than-significant* impact.

- ii. *Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered park facilities, or result in the need for new or physically altered park facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios or other performance objectives.*

As discussed in Section E.4.a.i, General Plan 2030 would result in development that would increase the demand for parks and recreational facilities. This would likely result in the need for new or expanded park facilities. However, the locations of such facilities are not known at this time. As a result, it cannot be determined what project-specific environmental impacts would occur from their construction and operation. These potential impacts would be identified during the facility site selection process.

In addition, as discussed in Section E.4.a.i, General Plan 2030 includes policies and actions that would help ensure that parkland goals are met. Policies PUB-P6.1, PUB-P6.4, PUB-P6.5, and PUB-P7.1 ensure that new parkland and recreational facilities are developed to accommodate the growing population. Additionally, Policy PUB-P6.3 and Actions PUB-A6.1 and PUB-A7.1 ensure that park and recreational facilities are funded.

As a result of the proposed policies, parks and recreation facility impacts would be *less than significant*.

b. Cumulative Impacts

As discussed in Section E.4.a, on average, park and recreation facilities in Butte County exceed the Quimby Act standard of 3 acres per 1,000 residents but do not meet the level of service standard adopted by local park and recreation districts in Butte County. However, as discussed in Section E.4.a, General Plan 2030 includes a number of policies that ensure park and recreation facilities are funded and that new parks and recreational facilities are developed to accommodate the growing population.

Future regional growth would result in increased demand for park and recreational facilities throughout the region. As a result, new parks and recreational facilities would need to be constructed, or existing facilities may need to be expanded. As with the project-level analysis in Section E.4.a, the location and size of additional facilities would be determined as part of future development activity. As specific park and recreation facility expansions or improvement projects are identified, additional project-specific, environmental analysis would be completed. As a result, a *less-than-significant* cumulative impact associated with parks and recreation would occur.

**5. Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

Since there are no significant impacts related to parks and recreation as a result of General Plan 2030, no mitigation measures are required.

*F. Maximum Theoretical Buildout*

The maximum theoretical buildout that could result under General Plan 2030 would include significantly more development than the projected 2030 buildout analyzed in the impact discussion sections in terms of both the amount and the extent of development. Therefore, the potential for impacts to public services and recreation would increase. However, as discussed in Chapter 3, it is unlikely that maximum theoretical buildout would ever occur under General Plan 2030, and an analysis of maximum theoretical buildout is not required by CEQA.

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