

**Stakeholder Meeting Notes  
Historical/Archaeological Interest Groups  
January 24, 2008**



**GROUP CHARACTERISTICS**

This group was made up of a representative from the North East Information Center who expressed overall concerns about cultural and historic preservation issues. As a stakeholder participant this individual expressed an interest in preserving and protecting Chico's unique cultural, archeological, and architectural resources.

**WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR CHICO IN THE NEXT 20 YEARS**

The group was very concerned about preservation of Chico's *Historic Resources*. Overall priorities included:

- Protection of Downtown and Neighborhood Historical Districts
- Preservation and enhancement of historical resources
- Improved proactive approaches to preservation
- Keeping the Historic Quality of Downtown
- Recommend a long-range approach to protecting cultural resources

**WHAT SHOULD NOT CHANGE IN TERMS OF THE GENERAL PLAN**

As a stakeholder participant this individual expressed an interest in keeping with the overall vision for what the City should be. The city should continue to protect the Downtown area and other Historical sites, along with preserving the rural agricultural based image.

**CRITICAL AREAS THE GENERAL PLAN SHOULD ADDRESS**

- Make sure not to lose the Downtown neighborhood buildings, because they have so much to contribute to the community *and cultural identity*.
- When developing property, consider the pre-historic sites in the Downtown and Bidwell area that exist. Site monitoring should be encouraged to learn more from the material that are being excavated.
- The General Plan should help to develop public awareness for the architecture and history of Chico, in order to gain support for Historic Preservation.
- The General Plan should encourage a team based approach to cultural and historic resources, through collaboration between agencies and organizations.
- The economic value of the many Historical assets should be better utilized through tourism opportunities.
- Recommend economic incentives for developers to encourage resource protection (via an historic preservation ordinance).
- Create a separate Cultural Resources (Historic Preservation) Element.

- Promote a public awareness program for cultural resources, utilizing team approach of City, Chico Heritage Association, Chico Museum, Butte County Historical Society, Mechoopda Indian Tribe, and CSUC. Promote a comprehensive approach under the cultural resources program, utilizing regular conferences.
- Encourage integration of State Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) with 12 statewide cultural resource information centers, specifically to protect both built (historic) and non-built (prehistoric) resources.

## **WHAT BARRIERS DOES THE CITY FACE FOR SUCCESS**

- Out of area developers with profit motives that potentially could disrupt or change the historic feel of Chico. The City needs to be proactive to protect what makes the community unique.
- The City's current economic and financial situation need to be addressed in regard to the historical resources, in order to keep older neighborhood vibrant, and preserve historical character. *During the current downturn in the economy, the proper incentives could create a boon for cultural resource protection.*
- Place a value on the character of older neighborhoods, where "sterilization" of the historic character could occur.
- Protection of the north side of town where undeveloped land exists to prevent the chain-store, tract-style housing that characterizes the south side of town.