

**Stakeholder Meeting Notes
K-12 Education
January 23, 2008**



GROUP CHARACTERISTS

This group consisted of two administrative staff from the Chico Unified School District (CUSD) who agreed to help us attract greater attendance at the next interview. They expressed overall concerns the need for cooperative efforts between CUSD, Butte College, Chico State University (CSUC), and the City. Their interest in cooperative programs is predominately to create greater career opportunities, both professional (requiring a university degree) and technical/trade careers. As a group they strongly believe that Chico's future is tied to providing students opportunities that allow them to stay and succeed in Chico.

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

- Schools for students in the immediate neighborhood rather than busing kids all around town.
- Encourage and develop partnerships between CUSD and the City, Butte College, and CSUC.
- Develop more early college programs with Butte College
- Encourage entrepreneurial opportunities
- Vocational education needs attention and expansion, through partnerships
- Sustainability – no net loss of resources, good for business

WHAT SHOULD NOT CHANGE IN TERMS OF THE GENERAL PLAN?

- The feeling that Chico is unique and the sense of community that many citizens feel, including the perception that everyone can make his/her voice heard. The strong "sense of ownership" of residents.
- Accessible decision-makers, citizens invited into process
- Chico's size, keep it small
- Attitude of neighborliness
- Focus on neighborhood commercial cores
- Continue existing partnerships
- Bidwell Park (without overusing)
- Continue HCP development

CRITICAL AREAS THE GENERAL PLAN SHOULD ADDRESS

- Appropriate parcels identified as school sites
- Grow the tax base
- Work-force development, early college and vocational
- Reduce the pressure to drive, increase walkability and bike safety, particularly for kids going to school. Too many parents are driving kids daily.
- Incentives for “good/smart” planning by developers
- Fix traffic problems – eastern ring route, more grid patterns
- Strengthen economic base with “green” businesses

WHAT BARRIERS DOES THE CITY FACE FOR SUCCESS?

- Misunderstandings of the true costs of public services, can't raise taxes
- The “graying” of the management staff throughout Chico
- Citizens need to be empowered to solve their problems and not wait for government to solve them
- Misunderstandings of the trade-offs in planning
- Greenline/goldline – barriers to growth
- City/County tax sharing
- Growth of CSUC