

## Sustainability is focus of next Chico General Plan update workshop

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CHICO — Residents will focus on sustainability and the environment this Tuesday when Chico planners began work on a new special focus for the Chico General Plan update.

City Planner Holly Keeler said the environment and sustainability were two issues that surfaced during the city's initial outreach efforts for the update of the Chico General Plan. The city decided to focus on the two topics during its series of "key issues" meetings.

"These are going to be some critical decisions, I think, to achieving quality of life into the future," Keeler said. "Sustainability and the environment effect us in how we play — what kind of recreation we have available — where we shop; what kind of grocers — and jobs — are we going to have jobs nearby to get to work; and air quality and community health. Those are just some of the issues that get pulled in." The Chico General Plan will guide decisions on the future physical development of the city. The city is more than six months into the two-year process of forming the plan, which will cover planning until the year 2030.

Keeler said Chico will be one of first jurisdictions in the state to have a sustainability element in its General Plan. She said the city's current version of the General Plan has sustainability policies, but the city wanted to create a separate focus that will put all of the sustainability policies in one place.

"We wanted to make sure we could really try and

make it easy for people to make some sustainable measures in an easy way," Keeler said.

She said sustainability requires a change on a lot of fronts, not just one change. To achieve sustainability, she said a focus is needed on a combination of the environment, economy, and community focus. "We're looking at what can we do today and what sort of things we need to do in the future to be a sustainable future. It's really going back to make sure in the future we can achieve a good quality of life ..." Keeler said.

Keeler said the city is trying to get as many people as it can to show up to the Tuesday night workshop. As well as brief discussion on the tenants of sustainability, the workshop will include interactive exercises and time to talk, she said.

"The more people who show up and express their opinion the better understanding we have of the community and its desires," Keeler said.

Tuesday's meeting will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at California Lakeside Pavilion, 2565 California Park Drive, Chico.

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