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## **6.0 OPEN SPACE AND CONSERVATION ELEMENT**

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## 6.0 OPEN SPACE AND CONSERVATION

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### 6.1 INTRODUCTION

#### LEGAL BASIS AND REQUIREMENTS

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The Open Space and Conservation Element of the General Plan addresses a combination of issues including agricultural lands, timber resources, water quality, water resources, wildlife resources, mineral production, natural land resources, and historic and archeological resources. Government Code Sections 65302(d) and 65302(e) require that the General Plan include the following:

“A conservation element for the conservation, development, and utilization of natural resources including water and its hydraulic force, forests, soils, rivers and other waters, harbors, fisheries wildlife, minerals, and other natural resources.”

“An open-space element as provided in Article 10.5 (commencing with Government Code Section 65560).”

The General Plan is required to focus various open space and conservation issues including: the preservation of natural resources (fish and wildlife habitat); the managed production of resources (food, fiber, timber, and mineral production); outdoor recreation including areas of scenic, historic, or cultural value; and open space for health and safety.

Within the Tehama County General Plan, the Open Space and Conservation Elements are combined to address the required issues as well as issues that are especially relevant to the County.

### 6.2 OVERVIEW

#### WATER

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Water is a critical resource to the economic, environmental, and recreational well-being of Tehama County. Currently, annual water use in the county averages about 380,000 acre-feet and over 65 percent of this demand is supplied by groundwater. In the past, concerns with surface water supply reliability, changing land use, local and statewide growth, and increased environmental water use has contributed to greater dependence upon groundwater. More recently, investigations into climate change, reduced snow pack, and decreased Delta export pumping are confronting Californians with a water supply dilemma. Long-range projections indicate wet years may be fewer and farther apart over the next 40 years. This has focused increasing attention toward groundwater resources that underlie Tehama County and the greater Northern Sacramento Valley.

This shift to groundwater coupled with concerns about water exports out of Tehama County in 1992 provided incentive to adopt Water Export Ordinance No. 1617 in 1994 and to develop a countywide Groundwater Management Plan beginning in 1995. Landowners, agricultural and domestic water purveyors, environmental interests, and the general public recognized the need to advance with groundwater resource protection by balancing groundwater use with groundwater recharge.

In 1998, after considerable public input and review, the Tehama County Groundwater Management Plan was completed and adopted by the Tehama County Flood Control



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and Water Conservation District. Implementation of the Groundwater Management Plan is underway and encourages cooperation with cities, special districts, and landowners throughout Tehama County who share in the common objectives of the Plan. Information on implementation of the AB3030 Coordinated Groundwater Management Plan and Water Export Ordinance No. 1617 is available through the Department of Public Works and can be found at <http://www.tehamacountywater.ca.gov>.

### AIR QUALITY

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Tehama County is located in the northern area of the Sacramento Valley, approximately midway between Sacramento and the Oregon border. The Northern Sacramento Valley Air Basin (NSVAB) of the Sacramento Valley is about 200 miles long in a north-south direction, and has a maximum width of about 150 miles, although the width of the valley floor only averages about 50 miles. The basin contains the following counties within its area: Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Shasta, Sutter, Tehama and Yuba and is generally bounded on the east by the Cascade and Sierra Nevada Mountain Ranges, on the north and west by the California Coastal Range.

Tehama County is divided into numerous smaller air sub-basins of the broader Sacramento Valley air basin and includes a portion of the Lassen Volcanic National Park Class I mandatory federal air basin area. The Lassen Volcanic National Park sub-basin was designated as a Federal Class I mandatory air basin by the Clean Air Act (CAA) of 1977 and within this area, any new emissions source generators are required to undergo additional analysis pursuant to the Federal Clean Air Act.

Pursuant to the 2006 Air Quality Attainment Plan, or as amended, for the Northern Sacramento Valley Air Basin, the Basin is in a status of non-compliance for State PM<sub>10</sub> Standards and State O<sub>2</sub> (Ozone) Standards.

The Tehama County Air Pollution Control District (TCAPCD) is the regional agency that regulates stationary sources of air pollution within the County. The District's boundaries are the same as the County's.

### BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

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Tehama County has a very wide range of biological communities. The biological communities and common plant and wildlife species occurring or expected to occur within these habitats, as described by the California Natural Diversity Data Base and the California Native Plant Society, are addressed in more detail in the following sections.

#### **Sensitive Habitats**

Sensitive habitats in Tehama County include serpentine soils, rock outcrops, wetlands, lakes, rivers, vernal pools, and old growth forests. These habitats are likely to harbor special-status plant and animal species, or provide the potential for these species.

#### **Jurisdictional Waters of the U.S.**

A wide range of jurisdictional "Waters of the U.S.", including wetlands, are located within the County. Many, if not most, of these water features have not been delineated. Consequently, a wetland determination must be made and, if necessary, a wetland

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delineation conducted and verified by the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) prior to the development of any project that would encroach upon such Waters of the U.S.

### Wildlife Movement Corridors

Wildlife movement corridors are essential to the distribution of a variety of wildlife species, providing a means of movement throughout ranges that have often been encroached upon by human development. Timberland and open space throughout the County often provides significant movement corridors for wildlife such as mule deer.

### Riparian Habitat

Riparian habitats support numerous plant, fish, and wildlife species and are considered to be a sensitive resource. Riparian vegetation provides shade, bank stabilization, sediment control, organic litter, large woody debris, nutrient control, microclimate and wildlife habitat. Riparian zones also act as a flood buffer during high water events. All of these are required for a healthy, functioning ecosystem.

### OAK WOODLANDS

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Oak woodlands consist of relatively open habitats, dominated by one or more species of oaks. They occur throughout California, and have a patchy distribution in the valleys and foothills of Tehama County.

At 633,000 acres, Tehama County contains the third largest acreage of resource-rich hardwood rangelands in California, just behind Monterey and San Luis Obispo Counties. The County's unique geography creates a diversity of oak habitats, including shady riparian woodland along the Sacramento River, and extensive oak savannas in the foothills. Additionally, the oak woodlands in eastern Tehama County provide the primary winter range for California's largest migratory deer herd.

To conserve Oak Woodlands, the planning process must identify and address the various land use practices that impact oak woodlands and develop appropriate mechanisms to achieve lasting conservation. Without policies to protect and conserve its existing oak woodlands, Tehama County could face multiple consequences, including the degradation of wildlife habitat, loss of biodiversity, loss of scenic resources, among others.

### Woodland Wildlife

Oak woodlands harbor a rich diversity of native plant and wildlife species. The mild Mediterranean climate and abundant food provided by acorns allow many species to remain within the County year-round. Oak woodlands also provide critical wintertime habitat to migratory species that spend their summers at higher elevations. Because of these qualities, oak woodlands are determined by the Department of Fish and Game to have the richest wildlife species abundance of any habitat in California.

### Blue Oak Woodlands

The Blue Oak Woodland natural community is the most abundant oak woodland in Tehama County and totals approximately 269,000 acres (CDF 2004). These woodlands occur in the lower foothill belt of both the eastern and western portions of the County. Blue oaks are relatively slow-growing, long-living trees. Large blue oaks can range in



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age from 150 to nearly 400 years, though the most common blue oak stands are currently 80 to 120 years in age.

### **Oak Woodlands Conservation Act**

In 2004, Senate Bill 1334 (The Oak Woodlands Conservation Act) was passed by the California Legislature. This legislation added Section 21083.4 to the Public Resources Code related to oak woodland conservation. The Act requires the consideration of oak woodland conservation as part of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

In accordance with SB 1334, Tehama County Board of Supervisors adopted the *Voluntary Oak Woodland Management Plan* in 2005. The purpose of this document was to expand upon, refine, and improve voluntary oak protection guidelines that had been established by the County in 1994, and to provide a consistent policy for conservation and use of oak woodland habitats throughout the County.

### **NATURAL GAS AND MINERAL RESOURCES**

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Natural gas fields are located in the southern portion of the County, on both sides of Interstate 5. Geothermal springs are located in the Eastern and Western Planning Areas and in the Lassen National Forest (which includes portions of the Eastern Planning Area of Tehama County, as well as portions of Plumas, Lassen and Shasta Counties.) The thermal springs in Lassen National Park are of a moderate surface temperature ranging from 66°C to 129°C (150°F to 264°F).

The majority of Tehama County's mineral wealth is derived from the extraction of non-metallic sand, gravel, and volcanic cinder, which are used primarily by local paving and construction industries. Other mineral resources found in the County include aragonite, borax, chalcopryite, chromite, copper, cristobalite, galena, garnet, opal, pectolite, penninite, sassolite, and Wallstonite.

### **NATURAL RESOURCES AND RECREATION**

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Tehama County is rich in recreational resources and lands. Hiking, fishing and boating opportunities abound, as well as the opportunity for more passive recreation. The Tehama County valleys and mountains have diverse and unique scenic resources including rivers, lakes, wetlands, large expanses of grassland, spectacular forests and high mountains. Included in this inventory are: USDA Forest Service lands; National Park Service lands (under the US Department of the Interior); Bureau of Land Management (BLM) properties; California State Parks facilities and areas; US Army Corps of Engineers lakes and parks; and County regional parks.

### **HISTORIC, ARCHAEOLOGICAL, AND CULTURAL RESOURCES**

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#### **Prehistoric**

A variety of Native American tribes have settled in what is now Tehama County. For example, prior to Euro-American settlement, Wintun Indian Tribes populated the upper Sacramento Valley and the foothill areas to its east. The Yana and Yahi tribes also lived most of the year along creeks to the west of Lassen Peak. Cultural resources have been found at major archaeological sites such as the "Los Molinos Vicinity – Ishi Site" in Deer Creek Canyon, and the "Sulphur Creek Archaeological District" in the Mill Creek vicinity. Both areas are listed on the Federal Register of Historic Places. In addition, excavations

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have uncovered several hundred prehistoric sites, including burial sites, west of the Sacramento River where the Nomlaki Tribe is known to have settled. Other tribes that may have occupied the Tehama County area include the Konkow, Maidu, Patwin, and Nisenan. Additionally, over 250 settlement sites have been identified along the Sacramento River and along river tributaries in the foothill regions of the County.

### Archeological Resources

In contrast to historic resources, the archaeological resources of Tehama County are not presented to be accessible to the general public. This is primarily due to the sensitive nature of prehistoric sites and artifacts, but also to the lack of areas where public access can be controlled to prevent artifact damage. However, sites in Tehama County with visible surface indications of past cultural activity could possibly be utilized for interpretive displays. These would include rock shelters, midden sites in association with prehistoric dwellings, rock walls/circles, and petroglyph or pictograph sites.

### Historic

Several historic sites in Tehama County are under the protection and management of the state or federal government. Plaques designate the location and describe the significance of sites identified by the State Historic Landmarks program and the Federal Register of Historic Places. In Tehama County, two of these California Registered Historic Landmarks have been further utilized. The Residence of General William B. Ide, with support from the State Department of Parks and Recreation, has been designated as a Historical/Cultural Area Park and provides picnicking facilities as well as historic information. Other locally significant historic sites in Tehama County include the original Masonic Lodge, the original Tehama County Jail in the City of Tehama, and the former Leland Stanford Ranch in Vina. Additionally, Mineral Headquarters is designated and managed by the National Park Service as a historic district.

### PARKS AND FORESTS

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Three National Forests manage lands within Tehama County: Mendocino, Lassen, and the Shasta-Trinity National Forest. Many recreation resources occur on these public lands, most of which are found at higher elevations throughout the County. Recreation resources are discussed for each of the forests and parks in the County.

### Mendocino National Forest

The Mendocino National Forest straddles the eastern spur of the Coastal Mountain Range in northwestern California, covering a total of 894,399 acres that span portions of seven counties: Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Lake, Mendocino, Tehama, and Trinity. The Mendocino National Forest extends from the Yolla Bolly Mountains in the north (just west of the City of Red Bluff), to Clear Lake in the south. This includes 137,787 acres of designated wilderness and over 40 campgrounds, with a total of 514 recreation sites. Elevations range from approximately 1,000 feet to over 8,000 feet, providing a variety of vegetation and wildlife.

The Mendocino National Forest offers an array of recreation opportunities to the visitor, including fishing in lakes and streams, camping, picnicking, boating, hiking, horseback riding, wildlife viewing, hang-gliding, a large off-road vehicle trail system, winter snow play, hunting, wilderness experiences and mountain biking. The Mendocino National



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Forest is divided into three ranger districts: Grindstone (formerly Corning and Stonyford), Covelo, and Upper Lake.

The Mendocino National Forest Red Bluff Recreation Area encompasses 488 acres of diversified habitat adjacent to the Sacramento River, two miles south of Red Bluff. The Recreation Area includes the Sacramento River Discovery Center, Lake Red Bluff, two campgrounds, boat launches, a salmon viewing area, interpretive opportunities and a unique birding experience.

### **Lassen National Forest**

The Lassen National Forest lies at the southern extent of the Cascade Mountain Range and the northern extent of the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range in northern California. The National Forest covers 1,200,000 acres that span portions of seven counties: Lassen, Shasta, Tehama, Butte, Plumas, Siskiyou and Modoc. This includes 77,881 acres of designated wilderness and over 40 campgrounds. A variety of vegetation and wildlife is provided with elevations that range from about 500 feet to over 8,000 feet.

Three wilderness areas are located in the Lassen National Forest including the Ishi, Caribou and Thousand Lakes Wilderness. The Ishi Wilderness lies within Tehama County. Approximately 20 miles east of Red Bluff, the Ishi Wilderness encompasses approximately 41,000 acres of low-elevation wilderness. In addition to providing for hiking, camping, fishing and swimming, this wilderness area provides an extensive array of wildlife habitat and wildlife viewing.

Lassen National Forest has an abundance of recreational opportunities to the visitor. Activities include fishing, camping, picnicking, boating, hiking, horseback riding, wildlife viewing, a large off-road vehicle trail system, winter snow sports, hunting, wilderness experiences, rock climbing and mountain biking. The Lassen National Forest is divided into three ranger districts: Hat Creek, Almanor and Eagle Lake.

### **Shasta Trinity National Forest**

The Shasta Trinity National Forest lies at the northern extent of California and is the largest National Forest in California. Approximately 2,100,000 acres of diverse landscape stretch from the Trinity Alps to the Cascade Range, and the Yolla Bolly Wilderness to the Oregon Border.

The Shasta Trinity National Forest also has an abundance of recreational opportunities for the visitor. Activities include fishing, camping, picnicking, boating, hiking, horseback riding, wildlife viewing, winter snow sports, hunting, wilderness experiences, rock climbing, mountain biking and mountaineering. Only a small portion of this National Forest lies within Tehama County, including the Yolla Bolly Wilderness area.

### **Lassen Volcanic National Park**

Lassen Volcanic National Park, managed by the National Park Service, lies at the southern terminus of the Cascade Mountain Range at the crossroads of three great biological provinces: the Cascades range to the north, the Sierra Nevada Mountains to the south and the Great Basin to the east. The Park preserves and protects 106,000 acres of forests, lakes, hydrothermal areas, and geologic formations. Established in 1916, Lassen



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National Park is an active volcanic landscape with elevations ranging from 5,000 to 10,454 feet.

Lassen National Park provides an abundance of recreational opportunities, including: 150 miles of hiking trails (including 17 miles of the Pacific Crest Trail), camping, mountaineering, rock climbing, winter snow sports, sightseeing, wildlife viewing and interpretive resources.

### **Bureau of Land Management**

A number of Bureau of Land Management lands lie along the Sacramento River within Tehama County. Foster Island, Todd Island, Iron Canyon, Bald Hill, Paynes Creek, Perry Rifle, Massacre Flat, Inks Creek and Jelly's Ferry Area provide over 17,000 acres of public lands that can be utilized for recreational purposes. Access to many of these locations is via river only, while others are accessible via public roads. Recreation opportunities include birding, wildlife viewing, fishing, hiking and camping.

### **California State Parks**

Two properties within Tehama County are designated as California State Parks. Woodson Bridge State Recreation Area and William B. Ide Adobe State Historic Park, both located along the Sacramento River, offer recreation opportunities to residents and visitors of Tehama County.

### **Black Butte Lake/US Army Corps of Engineers**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers operates the Black Butte Lake recreation area, which spans the county line of Tehama and Glenn Counties. Black Butte Lake is located on Stony Creek southwest of Corning. The 4,460-acre lake is seven miles long and has a shoreline of 40 miles. The area provides numerous recreational opportunities including camping, boating, fishing, hiking, horseback riding, a large off-road vehicle area and interpretative opportunities.

### **Tehama County Parks**

The Tehama County Parks system is operated and maintained by the Tehama County Parks and Recreation Department. The Parks system consists of nine parks and two public access areas, all of which are maintained by County Parks and Recreation staff. These parks include the Tehama County River Park, Mill Creek Park and Boat Launch, North Mill Creek Fishing Access, Bend Bridge Park and Public Access, Antelope Park, Brokenshire Meadow County Park, Camp Tehama, Cone Grove County Park, Gerber Park, Ridgeway Park, and the Simpson-Finnell Park.

### **SIGNIFICANT VISUAL FEATURES**

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The County has a broad range of landscapes that change with the gradual increase in elevation. Elevations range from the fertile floor of the Sacramento River Valley (elevation at Red Bluff is 341 feet) to more than 9,200 feet at the peak of Brokeoff Mountain on the County line. The diverse environments of the region are represented by distinct natural communities and landforms that display different development patterns and historical features. This diversity is an important element of Tehama County's visual heritage and one that many residents value as part of their overall quality of life.



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Rolling hills dotted with mature oaks and oak woodlands, agricultural land, walnut orchards, evergreen forests and snow-capped mountains, scenic rivers, alpine lakes, and historic structures all contribute to the visual character found in the County. These visual resources contribute to the county's economy through tourism and recreational opportunities.

### County Designated Scenic Highways

State Route 89: The Tehama County General Plan has classified State Route 89 as a County scenic highway. This route in eastern Tehama County has been designated as part of the Volcanic Legacy Scenic Byway All American Road. It is also eligible to be, but has not been, classified as a California state scenic highway.

State Route 172: Route 172, located in eastern Tehama County in the area of Mill Creek, has been designated a County scenic highway in the General Plan Update.

State Route 36: State Route 36 from Manton Road eastward to the county line has been designated a County scenic highway in the General Plan Update. Additionally, State Route 36 from Bowman Road westward to the county line has been designated a County scenic highway in the General Plan Update.

State Route 32: Route 32 is located in eastern Tehama County. This highway traverses portions of Lassen National Forest. The Tehama County General Plan Update has classified this highway as a County scenic highway.

### GEOLOGIC RESOURCES

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Tehama County is located within the Great Valley Geomorphic province. The province includes that area known as the Great Central Valley of California and extends 400 miles north to south and 60 miles east to west. It is encompassed by the Coast Ranges (metamorphic), the Cascade Range (volcanic) and the Sierra Nevada (granitic and metamorphic).

The majority of rocks and deposits found within the province are sedimentary. The age of these rocks and deposits range from Upper Jurassic to Recent.

The Tehama Formation is a Plio-Pleistocene occurrence that is composed of fluvial sedimentary deposits of semi-consolidated pale-green, gray and tan sand, tuffaceous sand, silt, and clay. This material ranges in depth from 5-40 feet within the formation.

The rocks of the Coast Ranges present in the area consist of oceanic crustal rocks that are somewhat similar lithologically to those of the Klamath Mountains but are Early Jurassic to Cretaceous in age. The Great Valley province includes a thick deposit of moderately deformed Jurassic and Cretaceous marine strata that consist of detrital materials derived from uplifted basement rocks of the Klamath Mountains and the Sierra Nevada.

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### 6.3 GOALS, POLICIES, AND IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES

#### WATER AND WATER QUALITY

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##### GOAL OS-1

**To ensure that water supplies of sufficient quality and quantity will be available to serve the needs of the Tehama County, now and into the future.**

##### **Policy OS-1.1**

*The County shall protect and conserve water resources and supply systems through sound watershed management.*

##### **Implementation Measure OS-1.1a**

Maintain local water ordinances to protect the integrity of water supplies in Tehama County.

##### **Implementation Measure OS-1.1b**

Consider and evaluate the need for a Water Conservation Ordinance.

##### **Implementation Measure OS-1.1c**

Ensure that projects adhere to the regulations of the State of California Reclamation Board, California Department of Fish and Game, Regional Water Quality Control Board, and U.S. Government.

##### **Implementation Measure OS-1.1d**

Work with local water providers and water conservation agencies to create an incentive program that encourages retrofitting existing development with low-flow water fixtures.

##### **Implementation Measure OS 1.1e**

Continue to maintain and implement the Adopted AB3030 Groundwater Management Plan to protect and preserve water supplies and water quality in Tehama County.

##### **Implementation Measure OS 1.1f**

Encourage continued involvement in Local, Regional, and Statewide Water Resource coordination, cooperation and collaboration to protect and preserve water supplies and water quality in Tehama County.

##### **Implementation Measure OS 1.1g**

Encourage water supply and wastewater plans to be developed in a regional master plan basis where appropriate.

##### **Implementation Measure OS 1.1h**

The export of groundwater from Tehama County shall be discouraged.

##### **Policy OS-1.2**

*The County shall work to ensure continued reasonable alternate water supplies.*



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### **Implementation Measure OS-1.2a**

Encourage water supply agencies and companies in the County to identify and develop water supply sources, other than groundwater, where feasible.

### **Implementation Measure OS-1.2b**

Require development project approvals to include a finding that all feasible and cost-effective options for conservation and water reuse are incorporated into project design.

### **Implementation Measure OS-1.2c**

Encourage the use of treated wastewater to irrigate parks, golf courses, and landscaping.

### **Implementation Measure OS-1.2d**

Promote the installation of sufficient groundwater monitoring wells and data collection facilities to assure non-injury to surrounding areas in the development of community and specific plan projects.

### **Policy OS-1.3**

*Surface water quality and stream flows for water supply, water recharge, recreation, and aquatic ecosystem maintenance shall be protected while respecting adjudicated and appropriated (California recognized water rights) rights of use.*

### **Implementation Measure OS-1.3a**

Protect surface and ground water from major sources of pollution, including hazardous materials contamination and urban runoff.

### **Implementation Measure OS-1.3b**

Restrict hazardous materials storage in the 100-year floodplain to prevent surface water contamination.

### **Implementation Measure OS-1.3c**

Educate the community on laws governing the proper handling of hazardous materials, especially those laws which pertain to discharging materials into creeks.

### **Implementation Measure OS-1.3d**

Require clean-up of contaminated ground and surface water by current and/or past owners or polluters.

### **Implementation Measure OS-1.3e**

Require community and specific plan areas to contain urban runoff control strategies.

### **Implementation Measure OS-1.3f**

Require development to incorporate runoff control measures into their site design or to participate in an area-wide runoff control management effort consistent with standards developed by the Public Works Department.

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### **Implementation Measure OS-1.3a**

Establish and require the use of best management practices to protect receiving waters from the adverse effects of construction activities, sediment and urban runoff.

### **Policy OS-1.4**

*The County shall encourage development of land for the purposes of improving groundwater recharge.*

### **Implementation Measure OS-1.4a**

Consistent with the General Plan development pattern and where deemed a reasonable on- or off-site improvement by the advisory agency, division of lands within all water district or County service area boundaries shall be conditioned based on the following:

- Provision of right-of-way access to irrigation infrastructure in order to facilitate their maintenance.
- Open irrigation ditches appropriately piped and sited to permit their continued use.

### **Policy OS-1.5**

*The County shall ensure the high quality of groundwater by emphasizing programs that minimize erosion and prevent the intrusion of municipal and agricultural wastes into water supplies.*

### **Implementation Measure OS-1.5a**

Natural Resource Lands land use subcategories shall be used to indicate areas essential to the recharge of groundwater and to afford protection from stream bank erosion.

### **Implementation Measure OS-1.5b**

The Regional Water Quality Control Board shall monitor irrigation runoff to prevent infiltration of herbicides/fertilizers/pesticides and municipal wastes into streams, rivers of the groundwater basin. The County shall also encourage irrigation water recycling.

### **Implementation Measure OS-1.5c**

As appropriate and feasible, the County shall install water-conserving landscaping and irrigation on County-owned facilities.

### **Policy OS-1.6**

*The County shall explore and encourage new water storage projects that are of local benefit.*

### **Implementation Measure OS-1.6a**

Work with local, regional, and state water suppliers to determine the necessary water storage required for projected growth in the County. Investigate potential federal and state funding opportunities related to water infrastructure. Apply for funding to establish water storage facilities.



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### **Policy OS-1.7**

*The County shall encourage new development to incorporate water conservation measures.*

### **Implementation Measure OS-1.7a**

Require development project approvals to include a finding that all feasible and cost-effective options for conservation and water reuse are incorporated into project design.

### **Implementation Measure OS-1.7b**

Implement standards that require low-flow appliances and fixtures in all new development.

### **Implementation Measure OS-1.7c**

Require new development to utilize state-of-the-art irrigation systems that reduce water consumption (e.g., drip irrigation, gray-water systems).

## AIR QUALITY

### **GOAL OS-2**

**To maintain, protect, and improve the air quality in Tehama County at acceptable levels as defined by state and federal standards.**

### **Policy OS-2.1**

*The County shall require new development projects to incorporate appropriate measures to reduce impacts to air quality.*

### **Implementation Measure OS-2.1a**

Require project proponents to coordinate with Tehama County Air Pollution Control District (TCAPCD) on appropriate methodologies for evaluating project emissions and air quality impacts (e.g., emissions modeling software, TCAPCD's thresholds of significance, etc.).

### **Implementation Measure OS-2.1b**

Require all new development projects that exceed TCAPCD's thresholds of significance to incorporate design, construction, and/or operational features that will result in a reduction in emissions when compared to an "unmitigated baseline" project. The measures should consider cost-effectiveness, maximum cost, and the provision of credits for emissions reductions already in place.

### **Implementation Measure OS-2.1c**

Monitor all new development required air quality mitigations. If mitigations are not being managed properly, take the appropriate steps to correct the situation.

### **Implementation Measure OS-2.1d**

Require dust-free, all-weather sealed surface roads in all new subdivisions and new commercial developments.

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### **Implementation Measure OS-2.1e**

Require all new wood burning fireplaces and stoves meet the requirements of TCAPCD Rule 4:27; Fireplace and Solid Fuel Heating Device Usage.

### **Policy OS-2.2**

*The County shall avoid siting sensitive land uses in the vicinity of agricultural processing, industrial, or other uses where odors or emissions could adversely affect the sensitive use.*

### **Implementation Measure OS-2.2a**

Implement measures identified under Policy LU-2.2.

### **Implementation Measure OS-2.2b**

Through the development review process, the County shall work to minimize potential adverse effects of emissions and odors generated by industrial uses on a community.

### **Implementation Measure OS-2.2c**

Require odor impact analyses be conducted for evaluating new development requests that either could generate objectionable odors that may violate TCAPCD Rule 4:4 or any subsequent rules and regulations regarding objectionable odors near sensitive receptors or locate new sensitive receptors near existing sources of objectionable odors. Should objectionable odor impacts be identified, odor mitigation shall be required in the form of setbacks, facility improvements or other appropriate measures.

### **Policy OS-2.3**

*The County shall encourage and support a compact and efficient land development pattern.*

### **Implementation Measure OS-2.3a**

Encourage mixed-use developments that put residences in close proximity to services, employment, transit, schools, and civic facilities/services.

### **Policy OS-2.4**

*The County shall encourage and support the use of alternative modes of transportation by incorporating public transit, bicycle, and pedestrian modes into the County planning processes.*

### **Implementation Measure OS-2.4a**

Encourage where feasible and where necessary for future connections, new developments to provide pedestrian and bicycle facilities, trails, and connections.

### **Policy OS-2.5**

*The County shall encourage and support the Tehama County Air Pollution Control District in their efforts to enforce local, state, and federal air quality laws, rules, and regulations in order to meet Ambient Air Quality Standards (AAQS).*



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### **Implementation Measure OS-2.5a**

Coordinate with TCAPCD through the environmental review process to ensure that proposed projects would not significantly affect the region's ability to meet State and federal air quality standards.

### **Implementation Measure OS-2.5b**

Use the emissions guidelines produced by the California Air Resources Board and TCAPCD to ensure that County facilities and operations comply with mandated measures.

### **Implementation Measure OS-2.5c**

Work with the Tehama County Air Pollution Control District to assure that emissions from increased population and vehicle miles traveled in the county are included in subsequent Northern Sacramento Valley Air Basin Air Quality Attainment Plans, and will assist the District in identification of additional control measures, as needed to offset emission increases.

### **Implementation Measure OS-2.5d**

Request that the Tehama County Air Pollution Control District develop Indirect Source Guidelines for the potential air emissions from future development. Require to the extent practical and applicable that all new development adhere to the District Indirect Source Guidelines to mitigate air quality and greenhouse gas impacts.

### **Implementation Measure OS-2.5e**

Strongly consider the adoption of a County Air Quality Impact Fee to assist in the reduction of air quality impacts in the County and support the efforts by the Tehama County Air Pollution Control District to prepare and adopt District air quality impact fees.

### **Implementation Measure OS-2.5f**

When implementing or approving projects that would result in considerable grading and/or excavation activities, require as a condition of project approval those mitigation measures recommended by the Tehama County Air Pollution Control District to reduce construction related emissions.

### **Implementation Measure OS-2.5g**

Consider as part of the project review and approval process the use of the following techniques to mitigate air quality impacts. These items may also be considered as potential project level measures by the TCAPCD to mitigate potential air quality impacts and be included in the Indirect Source Guidelines:



## 6.0 OPEN SPACE AND CONSERVATION

TABLE 6-1  
AIR QUALITY IMPACT MITIGATIONS

AGRICULTURE	ATMOSPHERE & CLIMATE	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	DESIGN	ECONOMY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support irrigation alternatives.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider model clean vehicle requirements.</li> <li>Reduce greenhouse gas emissions resulting from energy use in buildings.</li> <li>Reduce greenhouse gas emissions resulting from transportation.</li> <li>Reduce methane emissions released from waste disposal.</li> <li>Reduce County government contributions to greenhouse gas emissions.</li> <li>Encourage the planting of trees with urban forestry practices</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Keep urban uses in the city-centered corridor.</li> <li>Identify and plan mixed use sites.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Define flexible-use building types.</li> <li>Encourage mixed use projects.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide assistance with green practices.</li> </ul>
ENERGY & GREEN BUILDING	HOUSING	PUBLIC SERVICES & FACILITIES	TRANSPORTATION	WATER
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Offer energy efficiency information, technical assistance, training and incentives.</li> <li>Use renewable energy in county facilities.</li> <li>Facilitate renewable energy technologies and design.</li> <li>Provide incentives for alternative energy production.</li> <li>Divert construction waste.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete a non-residential job/housing linkage study.</li> <li>Conduct a survey of potential mixed use sites.</li> <li>Establish mixed use development standards and incentives.</li> <li>Evaluate the feasibility of an "Affordable Housing Overlay Designation".</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Divert construction waste.</li> <li>Reduce waste at county landfills.</li> <li>Offer recycling education.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support alternate work schedules.</li> <li>Promote transportation alternatives.</li> <li>Adopt standards for pedestrian and bicycle access.</li> <li>Consider pedestrian needs.</li> <li>Ensure safe routes to schools.</li> <li>Promote transit oriented development.</li> <li>Support green fuels.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support water conservation efforts.</li> <li>Support and integrate water district conservation efforts.</li> </ul>





### **Policy OS-2.6**

*The County shall promote improved air quality benefits through energy conservation measures for new and existing development.*

#### **Implementation Measure OS-2.6a**

Require energy-conserving features in the design and construction of new development. Many options exist for reducing pollution from energy-producing systems, including the following:

- Requiring the use of the best available technologies to reduce air pollution standards.
- Using building materials and methods that reduce emissions.
- Requiring that development projects be located and designed in a way that minimizes direct and indirect emission of air contaminants.
- Installing efficient heating equipment and other appliances, such as water heaters, swimming pool heaters, cooking equipment, refrigerators, furnaces, and boiler units.
- Utilizing automated time clocks or occupant sensors to control heating systems.

#### **Implementation Measure OS-2.6b**

Encourage the use of cost-effective and innovative emission-reduction technologies in building components and design. Such technologies may include the use of solar equipment, LED and compact florescent lighting, and the use of external electric outlets to allow for the use of non-gasoline powered lawn equipment.

#### **Implementation Measure OS-2.6c**

Support the use of building materials and methods that increase efficiency beyond State Title 24 standards.

#### **Implementation Measure OS-2.6d**

Encourage the use of "EPA Energy Star"-certified appliances.

#### **Implementation Measure OS-2.6e**

Promote the implementation of sustainable design strategies for "cool communities," such as installing solar equipment, light-colored paving, the use in increased amounts of insulation, dual-pane windows, and the planting of shade trees along south and west building exposures.

#### **Implementation Measure OS-2.6f**

Promote the incorporation of energy-conserving design and construction techniques in all facilities.

## 6.0 OPEN SPACE AND CONSERVATION

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### **Implementation Measure OS-2.6g**

Support vehicle improvements and the use of clean vehicles that reduce emissions and improve air quality.

### **Implementation Measure OS-2.6h**

Replace the County's fleet vehicles with new vehicles that utilize the lowest emission technology available, whenever economically feasible.

### **Implementation Measure OS-2.6i**

To the extent permitted by law, adopt a policy that provides a preferential treatment to contractors using reduced emission equipment for County construction projects and for County contracts for services (e.g., garbage collection).

### **Implementation Measure OS-2.6j**

Encourage lowest emission technology buses and vehicles in public transit fleets.

### **Implementation Measure OS-2.6k**

Adopt an ordinance that limits the amount of time diesel-powered trucks, buses, and other heavy vehicles may idle in accordance with California Air Resources Board rules for mobile Toxic Air Contaminant sources..

### **Implementation Measure OS-2.6l**

Upon tree removal, the County shall encourage the replanting of an equal or greater number of trees. The placement of new trees shall be located on the site so that they provide shade to south-facing windows in order to minimize heat gain.

### **Implementation Measure OS-2.6m**

Utilize the guidelines in the California Air Resources Control Board Air Quality and Land Use Handbook: A Community Health Perspective when evaluating new development request that either would generate toxic air contaminant emissions near sensitive receptors or locate new sensitive receptors near existing sources of air toxic emissions in order to minimize health hazards.

### **Policy OS-2.7**

*Tehama County shall work with the Tehama County Air Pollution Control District, California Air Resources Board and/or other agencies to prepare a Climate Action Plan. The Climate Action Plan shall include at a minimum:*

- *An inventory of current (2008) GHG emissions within the Tehama County Air Pollution Control District consistent with methodologies developed by the International Environmental Agency for Local Governments (ICLEI) and California Air Resources Board (ARB).*
- *An inventory 1990 GHG emission levels within the Tehama County Air Pollution Control District consistent with methodologies developed by ICLEI and ARB.*



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- Estimated inventory of 2020 GHG emission levels within the Tehama County Air Pollution Control District consistent with methodologies developed by ICLEI and ARB.
- Specific targets for reductions of the current and projected 2020 GHG emissions inventory from those sources reasonably attributable to the County's discretionary land use decisions and the County's internal government operations.
- Specific and general tools and strategies to reduce the current and projected 2020 GHG inventories and to meet the Plan's target's for GHG reductions by 2020.

The County shall seek funding from the State and/or other sources, including development impact fees, in order to fund the Plan.

### FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES

#### GOAL OS-3

To protect, preserve, and enhance fish and wildlife species by maintaining healthy ecosystems.

#### **Policy OS-3.1**

The County shall preserve and protect environmentally-sensitive and significant lands and water valuable for their plant and wildlife habitat, natural appearance, and character.

#### **Implementation Measure OS-3.1a**

Significant wildlife and wildlife habitats shall be protected through designations under the Natural Resource Conservation Land Use Classifications as shown in **Table 6-2** below.

**TABLE 6-2**  
**NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION LAND USE CLASSIFICATIONS**

SUB-CATEGORY	PURPOSE AND USE	CRITERIA	PLANNING CONDITIONS
Resource Lands	To identify and afford protection to riparian habitats	Identified riparian habitat, resource lands, natural area (CDFG, CNDDB) <sup>1</sup>	Regulation of land use Regulation of vegetation removal, and Use of set-backs or natural buffers

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SUB-CATEGORY	PURPOSE AND USE	CRITERIA	PLANNING CONDITIONS
Habitat Resources	To protect and maintain documented, significant wildlife habitats for their aesthetic and ecological values. These areas are defined as supporting habitat for sensitive animal and plant species. These lands should remain in their natural states, yet may allow wilderness study, grazing and passive recreational activities (hiking, nature study) if these activities do not threaten the integrity of the habitat.	Identified as a significant natural by CNDDDB, CNPS, and/or CDFG <sup>1</sup>	Regulation of land use, Regulation of vegetation removal, and Regulation of the siting of structures.

Notes: 1) CNDDDB – California Natural Diversity Data Base  
 CNPS – California Native Plant Society  
 CDFG – California Department of Fish and Game



### **Implementation Measure OS-3.1b**

Continue to refer all new land division applications to the Department of Fish & Game for review and comment.

### **Implementation Measure OS-3.1c**

For purposes of public access, the County shall work with non-profit and conservation entities to encourage the purchase and /or acquisition of access rights on private lands fronting along the Sacramento River. The County should also support easement donations from private property owners for similar purposes.

### **Implementation Measure OS-3.1d**

Encourage creation of habitat preserves that are immediately adjacent to one another in order to provide interconnected open space areas for animal movement.

### **Implementation Measure OS-3.1e**

In order to clarify and improve the effectiveness of the County procedures by which it will address potentially significant impacts to biological resources, and to mitigate such impacts as practicable, the County will work with responsible agencies, including CDFG, USFWS, NOAA Fisheries and the USACOE, to create **Biological Resources Mitigation Guidelines** (Biological Guidelines). The Biological Guidelines will focus and streamline project analysis and mitigation with respect to biological impacts. The Guidelines shall include the following:

- For those areas in which special-status species are found or are likely to occur, or where species presence is inferred, the County shall require mitigation of impacts to those species. Mitigation shall be designed in consultation with the USFWS, NOAA Fisheries and the CDFG, and shall emphasize a multi-species approach to the maximum extent possible;
- Standard mitigation measures, designed in consultation with USFWS, NOAA Fisheries, and CDFG, to be used when appropriate to direct special status species surveys, including survey timing and protocols;

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- Standard mitigation measures, designed in consultation with USFWS, NOAA Fisheries, CDFG, and the USACOE to direct actions related to roadside ditches;
- Measures designed to preserve areas identified in the General Plan EIR and the General Plan Land Use Diagram as containing sensitive habitat, or in which special status species are known to be present or likely to occur;
- Methodology to encourage the preservation of existing waterways and discourage extensive or absolute relocation or channelization of creeks, rivers and waterways.

### **Implementation Measure OS-3.1f**

Require that prior to any public or private development project in areas identified to contain or possibly contain special-status species – based on the Land Use Map, data provided in the Biological Resource section of the General Plan EIR or other suitable technical material available at the time – a biological survey be conducted by the project applicant to identify potentially occurring special-status species or their habitat using protocol acceptable to the regulatory agencies with authority over these species, or species presence shall be inferred. The results of the survey shall be documented in a Biological Resources Report.

### **Implementation Measure OS-3.1g**

For each project in which unavoidable removal of wetland habitat or other waters of the U.S. will occur, the County shall require the project proponent to develop a compensation plan prior to construction.

### **Policy OS-3.2**

*The County shall protect areas identified by the California Department of Fish and Game and the California Natural Diversity Data Base as critical riparian zones.*

### **Implementation Measure OS-3.2a**

Resource Lands shall be designated on General Plan Land Use Diagram using the subcategories shown in **Table 6-2**.

### **Implementation Measure OS-3.2b**

Lands designated with a Natural Resource Designation (Habitat Resources or Resource Lands) shall be zoned with the Natural Resources zoning designation.

### **Policy OS-3.3**

*The County shall support and coordinate County plans with inter-jurisdictional programs for Best Management Practices of riparian resources in the County.*

### **Implementation Measure OS-3.3a**

Work with state and federal agencies on County plans to any areas with riparian resources, identify and implement Best Management Practices for the plans.

## 6.0 OPEN SPACE AND CONSERVATION

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### **Policy OS-3.4**

*The County shall endeavor to provide for wildlife circulation in and around new development projects, major transportation facilities, roads, railroads, and canals.*

#### **Implementation Measure OS-3.4a**

Review projects through the entitlement process and CEQA analysis to ensure that they comply with this policy if the site contains unique habitat, creeks and/or wooded corridors.

#### **Implementation Measure OS-3.4b**

The effect on wildlife movement shall be analyzed prior to the approval of proposed development that encroaches upon vital corridors. The analysis shall include consultation with the CDFG to properly evaluate current wildlife movement and migration.

#### **Implementation Measure OS-3.4c**

In such cases where habitat preserves are crossed by a roadway, or where two adjacent preserves are separated by a roadway, the roadway shall be designed or upgraded with wildlife passable fencing separating the roadway from the preserve and/or shall incorporate design features that allow for the movement of wildlife across or beneath the road without causing a hazard for vehicles and pedestrians on the roadway.

### **Policy OS-3.5**

*The County shall work with State and Federal agencies to control and eliminate invasive plants from the County.*

#### **Implementation Measure OS-3.5a**

Contact the appropriate state and federal agencies to determine potential assistance and obtain information for the control of invasive plant species.

#### **Implementation Measure OS-3.5b**

Create an educational leaflet that identifies common invasive species and recommends the planting of non-invasive species.

#### **Implementation Measure OS-3.5c**

Explore the feasibility of adopting and maintaining a Noxious Weed Ordinance. The Noxious Weed Ordinance shall include restrictions on the use of non-native exotic species known to be invasive and damaging to existing plant species.

### **Policy OS-3.6**

*The County shall explore options for the establishment of a County owned wetland bank.*

#### **Implementation Measure OS-3.6a**

During the environmental review process, the County shall evaluate feasible on-site alternatives that will reduce impacts to wetland resources and effectively preserve these resources.



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### **Implementation Measure OS-3.6b**

Encourage projects that contain wetland preserves or creeks, or are located adjacent to wetland preserves or creeks, to be designed for maximum visibility and, as appropriate, access.

### **Implementation Measure OS-3.6c**

Investigate the feasibility of a County-owned mitigation bank for wetland loss.

### **Policy OS-3.7**

*The County shall promote best management practices of natural resources that will enhance wildlife habitat.*

### **Implementation Measure OS-3.7a**

Water diversions/dams constructed along anadromous fish streams shall be designed to protect fish populations and to ensure adequate flow levels for spawning activity during migratory seasons in accordance with State and Federal regulations.

## OAK WOODLANDS

### **GOAL OS-4**

**To encourage voluntary education and protection programs that assist private landowners in the management of their productive woodlands.**

### **Policy OS-4.1**

*The County shall promote economic studies on the value of alternative and sustainable rangeland products such as fee hunting, eco-tourism, and organic agriculture.*

### **Implementation Measure OS-4.1a**

Work with the Tri-County Economic Development Corporation and the Tehama Economic Development Corporation to pursue economic studies that identify, support, and develop sustainable rangeland products.

### **Policy OS-4.2**

*The County shall utilize the resources and expertise of the Tri-County Economic Development Corporation, the Tehama Economic Development Corporation, Tehama County Resource Conservation District, and the Tehama County Farm Bureau in order to promote non-traditional low intensity business ventures within the oak woodlands of Tehama County.*

### **Implementation Measure OS-4.2a**

Work with the Tri-County Economic Development Corporation and the Tehama Economic Development Corporation to identify, support, and develop non-traditional businesses that utilize the oak woodlands of Tehama County.



## 6.0 OPEN SPACE AND CONSERVATION

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### **Policy OS-4.3**

*The County shall educate landowners on the economic and environmental benefits of maintaining and restoring oak woodlands*

#### **Implementation Measure OS-4.3a**

When harvesting oaks for fuel or range improvement, the County shall encourage landowners to maintain an average leaf canopy of at least 30 percent.

#### **Implementation Measure OS-4.3b**

Where commercial or extensive harvest is being contemplated, the County shall seek professional advice from such resources as UC Cooperative Extension (Farm Advisor), USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), CalFire, California Department of Fish & Game (CDF&G), and private consultants.

### **Policy OS-4.4**

*The County shall inform private landowners about the value of well-managed oak woodlands.*

#### **Implementation Measures OS-4.4a**

Educate landowners about potential threats to oak woodlands in Tehama County.

#### **Implementation Measure OS-4.4b**

Seek funding that supports outreach to private landowners through the Tehama County Resource Conservation District, the NRCS, UC Cooperative Extension, Wildlife Conservation Board, and other organizations.

### **GOAL OS-5**

**To encourage landowners to protect oak woodlands for future generations.**

### **Policy OS-5.1**

*The County shall promote the conservation of large working ranches with significant oak woodlands.*

#### **Implementation Measure OS-5.1a**

Recognize sites according to landscape variables (size, shape, and connectivity to other habitats such as riparian) that support rich sustainable wildlife populations.

#### **Implementation Measure OS-5.1b**

Recognize sites where prescribed fire can be safely used as a management tool.

#### **Implementation Measure OS-5.1c**

Recognize sites that warrant voluntary protection according to threat and funding potential.



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### **Policy OS-5.2**

*The County shall encourage the voluntary protection of woodlands through appropriate conservation measures.*

#### **Implementation Measure OS-5.2a**

Develop partnerships between government and non-profit organizations to encourage protection of oak woodlands.

#### **Implementation Measure OS-5.2b**

Use land protection techniques which include conservation easements, oak tree mitigation banks and other forms of real estate transactions to protect significant oak woodland areas.

#### **Implementation Measure OS-5.2c**

The County shall explore the feasibility of an Oak Woodlands Ordinance.

### **GOAL OS-6**

**To encourage the restoration of oak woodlands that suffer from lack of regeneration and exotic species invasions.**

### **Policy OS-6.1**

*The County shall strive for the restoration of oak woodlands that lack regeneration.*

#### **Implementation Measure OS-6.1a**

In areas where oaks have been removed and are not regenerating, the County shall promote voluntary tree planting programs and measures that provide protection of oak seedlings from browsing and weeds.

#### **Implementation Measure OS-6.1b**

Participate in state and federal cost share programs and grants.

### **Policy OS-6.2**

*The County shall support the control of invasive weed species in oak woodlands.*

#### **Implementation Measure OS-6.2a**

In coordination with the Colusa-Glenn-Tehama Weed Management Area, the County shall seek funding to map the location and abundance of target weeds in oak woodlands.

#### **Implementation Measure OS-6.2b**

Where possible, the County shall introduce prescribed fire and other methods to help control the spread of medusa-head grass, yellow star thistle, giant reed, and other invasive wildland weed species.

### **Policy OS-6.3**

*The County shall promote the reestablishment of native under story species.*

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### **Implementation Measure OS-6.3a**

Encourage restoration of native plants as an alternative to exotic grasses. (Native plants will reduce weeds and may provide a longer grazing season for livestock.)

### **Implementation Measure OS-6.3b**

Encourage diverse under story vegetation including shrubs. (Habitat with multiple layers of vegetation provide habitat for many bird species.)



### **GOAL OS-7**

**To establish a monitoring program to evaluate the effectiveness and successes of the Oak Woodland Goals and Policies.**

#### ***Policy OS-7.1***

*The County shall request that the Tehama County Hardwood Advisory Committee periodically evaluates the state of oak woodlands using available data sources such as the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's FRAP (Fire and Resource Assessment Program) data.*

#### **Implementation Measure OS-7.1a**

The Tehama County Hardwood Advisory Committee shall meet semi-annually to evaluate the state of oak woodlands in Tehama County.

#### ***Policy OS-7.2***

*The County shall foster communication between land managers, ranchers, and scientists regarding the protection and management of oak woodlands.*

#### **Implementation Measure OS-7.2a**

Encourage workshop, symposiums, field trips, and other methods of outreach regarding oak woodlands.

#### ***Policy OS-7.3***

*The County shall encourage research on oak woodland habitats.*

#### **Implementation Measure OS-7.3a**

Encourage studies that evaluate oak regeneration in Tehama County.

#### **Implementation Measure OS-7.3b**

Encourage studies that evaluate the effects of changing land uses on oak woodland's current values – wildlife, ranching, economics, etc.

#### **Implementation Measure OS-7.3c**

Encourage studies that provide Tehama County ranchers and other members of the agricultural community with better and more specific information about the sustainable management of oak woodlands.



### NATURAL GAS AND MINERAL RESOURCES

#### **GOAL OS-8**

**To encourage commercial resource development of Tehama County's natural resources in locations where environmental, aesthetic and adjacent land use compatibility impacts can be adequately mitigated.**

#### ***Policy OS-8.1***

*The County shall require that development of natural gas and mineral resources be designed and conducted in a manner that minimizes incompatibility with nearby and adjacent land uses and minimizes impacts to local residents roadways, services, and facilities.*

#### **Implementation Measure OS-8.1a**

Require all new oil and natural gas wells to meet the standards established by the State of California for land use compatibility and buffering.

#### **Implementation Measure OS-8.1b**

Coordinate mining operations and urban development to minimize conflicts between residents and mining, particularly where mining is required before urbanization.

#### **Implementation Measure OS-8.1c**

Future mineral mining in the more densely populated areas of the County shall be protected through the requirement of mitigation measures and reclamation plans which reduce or eliminate impacts from adjacent land uses on mining operations and, conversely, the impacts of mining operations on adjacent land uses. These mitigation measures and plans shall be prepared in compliance with the State Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975, as amended.

#### **Implementation Measure OS-8.1d**

Mineral extraction operations and accessory uses including but not limited to, crushing, screening, asphalt and concrete batching and stock piling, shall be conditionally permitted in areas inherently compatible with mining. Inherently compatible lands can be characterized by their low economic value in both lands and improvements.

#### **Implementation Measure OS-8.1e**

Encourage and support inter-agency cooperation to protect mineral resources in Tehama County.

#### ***Policy OS-8.2***

*The County shall require all new mining operations prepare and implement reclamation plans pursuant to the State Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975, as amended, and provide adequate monetary security to guarantee reclamation.*

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### **Implementation Measure OS-8.2a**

Regulate surface mining operations as required by California's Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975, as amended, ("SMARA"), Public Resources Code Section 2207 (relating to annual reporting requirements), and State Mining and Geology Board regulations for surface mining and reclamation practice.

### **Implementation Measure OS-8.2b**

Where legally permitted, the County shall require inactive mined lands to be reclaimed to a usable condition that is readily adaptable to the future, anticipated land uses.

### **Policy OS-8.3**

*The County shall explore the need for the creation of special mining zones.*

### **Implementation Measure OS-8.3a**

Should such zones be determined to be necessary, the County should identify areas of significant mineral, gas, and oil resources, and develop an overlay zone to protect these resources for mining.

## NATURAL RESOURCE LAND AND RECREATION

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### **GOAL OS-9**

**To protect and enhance resource lands in the County for the continued benefit of agriculture, timber, grazing, recreation, wildlife habitat, and quality of life.**

### **Policy OS-9.1**

*The County shall strive for the protection and enhancement of resource lands for the continued benefit of agriculture, timber, grazing, recreation, waterfowl, wildlife habitat, watersheds, and quality of life.*

### **Implementation Measure OS-9.1a**

Resource lands shall be protected by the provisions outlined in the Resource Lands, Habitat Resource, and Commercial Recreation land use designation of this General Plan.

### **Policy OS-9.2**

*The County shall encourage protection of reasonable access to resource land areas when neither the integrity of the natural resource nor private property rights will be adversely affected. Closure shall not unreasonably deprive public and private enjoyment of previously accessible natural resources.*

### **Implementation Measure OS-9.2a**

Monitor the potential closures to the public of natural resource lands within the County. Encourage reasonable access be maintained, if at all possible, to these lands.



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### **Policy OS-9.3**

*The County shall seek inter-jurisdictional cooperation and coordination on natural resources practices and recreation plans with an emphasis on economic impacts.*

#### **Implementation Measure OS-9.3a**

Actively pursue opportunities to market and capitalize on the County's abundant natural resources to enhance economic development activities throughout the County.

### **Policy OS-9.4**

*The County shall actively promote outdoor recreation opportunities such as agri-tourism, nature-tourism, and environmental learning tourism.*

#### **Implementation Measure OS-9.4a**

Identify opportunities for outdoor recreation within the County and work with the Chamber of Commerce, Tehama Economic Development Council, Tri-County Economic Development Corporation, and local businesses to market and attract visitors.

## HISTORIC, ARCHAEOLOGICAL, AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

### **GOAL OS-10**

**To preserve the historic and archaeological resources of the County for their scientific, educational, aesthetic, recreational, and cultural values.**

### **Policy OS-10.1**

*The County should protect and preserve significant archaeological and cultural resources.*

#### **Implementation Measure OS-10.1a**

Refer all new development proposals on undisturbed land to the Northwest Information Center at California State University, Chico for an evaluation of potential impacts to archaeological and cultural resources.

#### **Implementation Measure OS-10.1b**

Encourage the nomination and registration of significant historic, archaeological, and cultural sites, resources, and buildings to the National Register of Historic Places and inclusion in the California Register of Historical Resources, California Historical Landmarks, and California Points of Historical Interest.

#### **Implementation Measure OS-10.1c**

Encourage public and private agencies and organizations to develop interpretive and educational programs in order to safely utilize historic and prehistoric sites for community benefit.

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### **Implementation Measure OS-10.1d**

Require appropriate surveys and site investigations when needed as part of the initial environmental assessment for development projects in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Surveys and investigations shall be performed under the supervision of a professional archaeologist or other person qualified in the appropriate field, and approved by the County.

It is recognized that Timber Harvest Plans have been declared by the State to be functionally equivalent to environmental assessments required by CEQA.

### **Implementation Measure OS-10.1e**

Impose the following conditions on all discretionary projects in areas which do not have a significant potential for containing archaeological or paleontological resources: "The Planning Dept. shall be notified immediately if any prehistoric, archaeological, or paleontological artifact is uncovered during construction. All construction must stop and an archaeologist that meets the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards in prehistoric or historical archaeology shall be retained to evaluate the finds and recommend appropriate action.

### **Policy OS-10.2**

*The County shall encourage the rehabilitation, preservation, and utilization of historic buildings that are representative examples of the County's heritage.*

### **Implementation Measure OS-10.2a**

The County should work with local historical societies and interested parties to support the inventory of the historic resources in Tehama County. The State Office of Historic Preservation has determined that buildings or structures 45 years or older have the potential to be historically significant and should be evaluated for historical significance.

### **Implementation Measure OS-10.2b**

Encourage property owners to register structures determined to be of federal, state, local historic significance in the National Register of Historic Places and/or the California Inventory of Historic Resources.

### **Policy OS-10.3**

*The County shall provide incentive programs and encourage cooperation with the private sector for the preservation, protection, or enhancement of historic, archaeological, and cultural resources.*

### **Implementation Measure OS-10.3a**

Provide information on potential private, state, and federal grants to the public and provide incentive programs to the private sector to preserve Historical and Cultural Resources.

### **Policy OS-10.4**

*The County shall encourage and support inter-agency cooperation to protect historic, archaeological, and cultural resources.*



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### **Implementation Measure OS-10.4a**

Consult with local, State, and federal agencies as well as local Native American communities in cases where new development may result in disturbance to historic, archaeological, and/or cultural resources.

### AESTHETIC AND VISUAL RESOURCES

#### **GOAL OS-11**

**To protect the scenic views and aesthetic qualities of Tehama County.**

#### ***Policy OS-11.1***

*The County shall identify significant scenic viewsheds for public viewing areas in the County designated scenic highways, such as views of Mt. Shasta, Mt. Lassen, the Sacramento River, and the Coastal Range, and protect the visual integrity of the view shed.*

#### **Implementation Measure OS-11.1a**

Identify public viewing areas and corresponding scenic viewsheds on the County's designated scenic highways (State Routes 89, 172, 36, 32). Protect these areas from visually intrusive development that would alter the qualities of the view shed by establishing guidelines regulating development heights and lighting.

#### ***Policy OS-11.2***

*The County shall strive to protect the aesthetic and scenic beauty of its regional locations.*

#### **Implementation Measure OS-11.2a**

Develop view shed preservation standards. Require that new development be designed to integrate building design, natural landforms, and vegetation in order to minimize alteration of scenic vistas.

#### **Implementation Measure OS-11.2b**

To the extent feasible, new development will be required to retain existing trees and vegetation and ensure that these resources are incorporated into project design wherever feasible.

#### **Implementation Measure OS-11.2c**

Require that cellular towers be designed and located in order to minimize visual impacts of the tower and protect the scenic views for surrounding existing uses.

#### **Implementation Measure OS-11.2d**

The County may develop design standards regulating the appearance and design of hilltop and side-slope development.



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### **Policy OS-11.3**

*The County shall consider the visual impacts of development within areas of significant topography, and shall work to minimize the visual impacts resulting from development of ridgelines.*

#### **Implementation Measure OS-11.3a**

Consider the development of ridgeline and hillside development guidelines.

### **Policy OS-11.4**

*New development should be designed to be compatible with surrounding development in ways that contribute to the desired character of the surrounding area.*

#### **Implementation Measure OS-11.4a**

New development shall include provisions for the design of outdoor light fixtures to be directed/shielded downward and screened to avoid adverse night-time lighting spill over effects on adjacent land uses and night-time sky glow conditions.

#### **Implementation Measure OS-11.4b**

All new structures shall be designed to minimize glare potential including the use of low-emissive glazing, the pre-finishing of metallic surfaces to avoid hot-spots, and non-reflective window treatments and exterior surfaces. The use of mirrored coatings, industrial brushed or polished features, aluminum, or other non-weathering materials shall be strictly prohibited. Reflectivity may be reduced or mitigated through the use of deep overhangs or other methods to provide shading or shadowing.

#### **Implementation Measure OS-11.4c**

Non-glare glass shall be used in all new residential and commercial buildings to minimize and reduce potential sources of glare.

## GEOLOGIC AND SOIL RESOURCES

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### **GOAL OS-12**

**To protect and maximize the present and future productive, economic, and environmental values of the County's soil resources.**

### **Policy OS-12.1**

*The County shall recognize the need to protect and conserve areas where soils have high resource values, especially in terms of potential agricultural productivity.*

#### **Implementation Measure OS-12.1a**

Utilizing the criteria included below, the County shall create mapping which identifies the locations of lands meeting these criteria for the purpose of conserving and preserving agricultural lands:

- Lands capable of supporting grazing, such as



## 6.0 OPEN SPACE AND CONSERVATION



- Existing grazing lands for this purpose, or
- Grazing lands under Williamson Act Contract.
- Lands capable of supporting crop production, such as
  - Lands classified by the U.S. Soil Conservation Service Important Farmlands Study maps as P, S, U, L, and LP; or
  - Lands classified by the U.S. Soil Conservation Service Capability Classification System as having Class I or II soils; or
  - Croplands under Williamson Act contract.

### **Policy OS-12.2**

*The County shall exercise an appropriate degree of regulation designed to minimize soil erosion, including the administration of standards for grading and site clearance related to development projects.*

#### **Implementation Measure OS-12.2a**

Consider adoption of a grading ordinance to establish standards and permitting processes in addition to enforcement of the Excavation and Grading provisions of the California Building Code to regulate grading projects which could cause or aggravate conditions for soil erosion related to development projects.

### **Policy OS-12.3**

*The County shall continue to encourage sound soil management, erosion prevention and control programs and projects, including the use of windbreaks, minimum tillage practices, grazing management, and riparian area rehabilitation.*

#### **Implementation Measure OS-12.3a**

Work with the Agricultural Commissioners Office, the Tehama County Farm Bureau, and the Natural Resource Conservation Service to promote and educate residents, property owners, and the agricultural community as to the benefits of sustainable farming practices.