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“ Promoting Jobs & Housing for Humboldt Families ”

March 19, 2007

Mr. Thomas Herman, Chairman
Planning Commission
County of Humboldt
825 Fifth Street, Room 111
Eureka, California 95501

Subject: General Plan Update

Dear Chairman Herman and Members of the Commission:

We appreciate the opportunity to participate in the drafting of the General Plan update. As expressed during last Thursday's Planning Commission meeting, we are extremely troubled that staff:

1. Is misrepresenting to the Commission what the Board of Supervisors has and has not approved,
2. Is misrepresenting to the Commission what the Board of Supervisors has and has not directed them to do, and
3. Continues to ignore the business community's input.

We recommend the Commission initiate a new policy requiring all members of the public, and staff, to be sworn in under oath to tell the truth and nothing but the truth.

I work in other jurisdictions which have this practice and it works very well. The Clerk asks all those who plan to testify, to stand and raise their right hand and take the oath under threat of perjury. When people who want to speak come in after the group as been sworn in, they get sworn in just before testifying. It reinforces the seriousness of the testimony, both on the part of members of the public as well as staff.

Sincerely,

Kay Backer, representing
Humboldt Economic & Land Plan

cc: Bruce Emad, Planning Commissioner
Mary Gearheart, Planning Commissioner
Richard Hansis, Planning Commissioner
Scott Kelly, Planning Commissioner
Sef Murguia, Planning Commissioner
Jeff Smith, Planning Commissioner
Supervisor Jimmy Smith, District 1
Supervisor Roger Rodoni, District 2
Supervisor John Woolley, District 3
Supervisor/Chair Bonnie Neely, District 4
Supervisor Jill Geist, District 5
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