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“ Promoting Jobs & Housing for Humboldt Families ”

April 3, 2007

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

Subject: General Plan Update
Group 2

Dear Chairman Herman and Members of the Commission:

We appreciate the opportunity to participate in the drafting of the General Plan update.

As you know, Group 2 proposed elements addresses Mineral Resources, Waste Management, Air Quality, and Energy.

You have received extensive analysis from various organizations and individuals commenting on Group 2 documents prepared by County planning staff. We point to the 66-page document submitted to the Planning Commission by The Northern California Association of Home Builders as one such study. We find it more than adequately addresses HELP’s concerns.

We strongly urge you to focus on those elements of the General Plan which truly need local governance and eliminate Group 2 elements. Each of these areas (mineral resources, waste management, air quality, and energy) are already over regulated by Federal and State statutes. As an example, a partial search of Federal and State regulation websites indicates:

Mineral Resources

Federal 53,049 individual US Government sites identifying regulations
In addition to those regulations
State 5 pages listing Public Resources Code Sections 6890 – 6900 regs

Waste Management

Federal 2,393 individual US Government sites identifying regulations
In addition to those regulations
State 11 pages identifying the various listings of Title 14 regulations
5 pages identifying the various listing Title 27 regulations

Air Quality

Federal 89,036 individual US Government sites identifying regulations
In addition to those regulations
State State air quality laws have been updated on an annual basis since 1995. There are 85 different program components to State air quality regulations -- each program component having multiple regulations

Energy

Federal 52,482 individual US Government sites identifying regulations

In addition to those regulations

State There are 29 books totaling 3,082 pages describing each of the 29 California codes addressing energy regulations. Plus, the California PUC (Public Utility Commission) code contains 240,323 sections -- each section consisting of multiple pages.

Is the answer more regulations? We don't think so, and we urge you to let the Federal and State governments tend to that knitting so that County staff can focus on issues which will help Humboldt citizens, not encumber them further with more constraints.

Sincerely,

Kay Backer, representing
Humboldt Economic & Land Plan

PS At your March 15, 2007 Commission meeting, staff made the comment that HELP input "does not change anything." Will the Planning Commissioners allow that position to stand, or will staff be instructed to include HELP's comments as a part of the public input? We would appreciate some assurance that our comments are being considered and are incorporated into the record. (We are not alone in our concerns. As just one example, please reference Harland Law Firm's Allison Jackson March 16, 2007 letter to the Planning Commissioners.)

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
Loretta A. Nickolaus, County Administrative Officer
Kirk A. Girard, Community Development Services Director
Ralph Faust, County Counsel
Robert K. Best, Trainor Fairbrook Attorneys

helpcountyherman14

P O Box 168, Eureka CA 95502 + 707.834.8006 + help@helphumboldt.com