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October 18, 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:

HELP is a group of volunteers from many walks of life who came together in January 2004 to encourage the County to bring balance to the update of the General Plan. Members include homebuilders, former Humboldt County planner, landowners with small single family lots as well as owners of larger properties, realtors, people working for utility companies, teachers, high school students, those in finance and accounting, insurance sales, chamber of commerce members, general contractors and suppliers, consultants specializing in timber lands, attorneys, retired people, homemakers, landplanners, landscape architect, forest product sales, a Humboldt Harbor Commissioner, a member of the Humboldt Community Services District Board, TPZ landowners, homeowners, and individuals who would like to be homeowners someday.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the update of the County's General Plan and are looking forward to doing so in a meaningful way.

Infrastructure is the backbone of the General Plan update. Until we know where we are today in terms of infrastructure capacities, is it impossible to address a vision for tomorrow, to say nothing of 20 – 25 years from now.

We anxiously await the findings of the County's infrastructure study currently being performed by Winzler Kelley. Until those findings can be reviewed and verified, it is counterproductive to attempt to develop any meaningful predictions regarding:

- Mineral Resources
- Energy
- Waste Management
- Air Quality
- Noise
- Safety
- Airport Safety
- Economic Development
- Conservation & Open Space

Mr. Thomas Herman, Chairman

Water Resources
Biological Resources
Cultural & Scenic Resources
Land Use – Urban Lands, Rural Residential, Public Lands
Forest Resources
Agricultural Resources
Managing Growth
Public Facilities
Circulation
Housing
Community Design
Water Resources

Because infrastructure is the one theme that runs throughout each of the General Plan elements, and because each of those elements must by law be consistent with the other, we urge the Commissioners to withhold their deliberations on each of the elements until the infrastructure study is finalized and available.

We appreciate this opportunity to participate in the General Plan update and especially thank you for being open to considering the various view points from all County citizens.

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

helpcountyherman21