



"Jobs, Homes & Individual Rights"

February 1, 2008

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

Subject: General Plan Update

Dear Chairman Smith and Members of the Commission:

As a result of last evening's Planning Commission meeting and the confrontation between County planners and representatives of the Humboldt Community Services District, we offer the following information:

Planning timeframes:

Alan Bongio, Chairman of the Humboldt CSD testified that certain infrastructure planning timeframes must be of a longer term than the typical General Plan 20 to 25-year planning period. This thinking is consistent with the State of California Office of Planning & Research 290-page General Plan Guidelines.

Reference <http://www.opr.ca.gov/index.php?a=planning/publications.html#pubs-G> Page 13:

Long-Term Perspective:

"The time frames for effective planning vary among issues. The housing element, for example, specifically involves time increments of five years. Geologic hazards, on the other hand, persist for hundreds or thousands of years. Sewer, water, and road systems are generally designed with a 30 to 50 year lifespan."

Planning for future growth:

At last night's meeting, Mr. Hofweber rejected the notion that the Community Service Districts perform long term planning to provide for future land development.

Please reference the Winzler & Kelly infrastructure study contract issued by the County Planning Department:

Task A2: Distribution and Development of Alternative Growth Scenarios

The consultant (Winzler & Kelly) will work with representatives of the water and sewer service providers to assess what types and levels of growth their communities want to see. Consultants will rely on this information to estimate existing capacity that is still available. Consultant will coordinate reviews of County supplied

workbook information with service providers so they can provide input (comments and corrections) to these documents. This step will provide an opportunity for the communities to provide input on what levels of growth they feel is best for their community.

Consultant Deliverables

The workbooks for each community will include a section on service provider and/or community input on growth scenarios and recommendations for fine-tuning scenario alternatives for each specific community.

HELP knows for a matter of fact that Humboldt CSD has attempted for years to obtain input from County Planning regarding growth patterns. Unfortunately, their repeated requests fell on deaf ears.

Mr. Hofweber's suggesting that the "tail is wagging the dog" has infuriated those who are dedicated to the truth.

Sincerely,

Kay Backer, representing
Humboldt Economic & Land Plan

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