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*“ Promoting Jobs & Housing for Humboldt Families ”*

September 29, 2006

Chairperson John Woolley and  
Members of the Board of Supervisors  
Humboldt County  
825 Fifth Street, Room 111  
Eureka, California 95501

Re: Land Inventory

Dear Chairman Woolley and Members of the Board:

We commend the Board for taking the action September 18, 2006 to reject redevelopment as a mechanism to revitalize certain areas of Humboldt County. The proposal was ill conceived and poorly designed. We believe the answer to achieving a healthy economy, affordable housing and vibrant quality of life lies with the County working with the private-sector to assure adequate housing and quality jobs for Humboldt families.

In that regard, we welcome the opportunity to assist the County in anyway possible to promote the development of affordable housing, especially for lower income families. Unfortunately, our efforts and the efforts of others continue to be frustrated because of the inadequacies in the county's housing element, especially the lack of a usable inventory of sites suitable for residential development and the failure of the county to identify adequate sites for the development of housing to meet the regional housing need for all income levels. It is most important to proceed immediately with the "grounds truthing" that will lead to an accurate land inventory. However, it is our understanding that planning staff has decided not to proceed with that effort, in spite of the Board's instructions to do so with the participation of the Humboldt Association of Realtors and the Northern California Association of Homebuilders.

We urge the Board to direct the planning staff to give high priority to completing the ground truthing effort and correcting other deficiencies in the housing element to open the door for the provision of desperately needed housing in this county. We also request the County to provide us with copies of any changes made this year to the inventory of

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Members of the Board of Supervisors, Sept 19, 2006, cont'd

sites suitable for residential development and the current status of the ground truthing effort.

Sincerely,

Kay Backer  
H.E.L.P. Consultant

cc: Supervisor Jimmy Smith, District 1  
Supervisor Roger Rodoni, District 2  
Supervisor Bonnie Neely, District 4  
Supervisor Jill Geist, District 5  
Loretta A. Nickolaus, County Administrative Officer  
Kirk A. Girard, Community Development Services Director  
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