

Hi Tom,

To minimize printing and paper costs, I am electronically submitting two recent scientific papers (attached) to the Humboldt County Planning Commission regarding the General Plan Update Land Use Element. Both papers address the impacts of low-density rural residential (exurban) development on biodiversity. Since Humboldt County is a Biodiversity Hotspot, the issue is topical and relates to DFG's three previous comment letters on the update.

Hansen et al. (2005) provides an excellent overview of exurban development; what it is, trends, and how it affects biodiversity. It uses case studies from the western US. The section entitled "Mechanisms linking exurban development and biodiversity" (Pg. 1900) is especially insightful.

Lohse et al. (2008) models exurban and vineyard conversion in the Russian River Watershed in Sonoma County, CA. and the effects of these land use changes on spawning habitat for listed salmonids.

I understand busy policy makers typically have little time for reading scientific papers. However, a quick read of the abstract, introduction, and the discussion/conclusion sections of these papers would help give decision makers (and County staff) a much deeper understanding of the potential significant impacts associated with exurban development.

Best regards,
Gordon

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