

# *The Healthy Humboldt Coalition*

January 22, 2007

All County Supervisors  
825 5th Street  
Eureka, CA 95502

## **Re: Request for 60-day review period for General Plan Update documents**

Dear Supervisors and Staff,

I am writing to request that your Community Development staff provide a 60-day public review period for the draft chapters of the General Plan, EIR, and ordinances, rather than the 30-day period currently being provided. We believe that this extended review period will provide greater opportunity for public input, will improve the quality of that input, and will ultimately result in greater public understanding of, and confidence in, the final General Plan.

The December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2005 *General Plan Update: Status Report and Proposed Work Plan* states:

*The Department will publish hearing drafts of the Plan, EIR and ordinances at least thirty days prior to Planning Commission and Board review. Updated versions, revised through public hearings, will be published at least ten days prior to Planning Commission and Board review, unless your Board or the Planning Commission modifies the public review time period.*

From the December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2005 *Schedule for the General Plan Update* it appears that the revised drafts will typically be made available at the same time that the initial draft documents for the next group are being released. Similarly, there will likely be some overlap between the hearings on the initial draft documents for a given group and the hearings on the revised drafts for the prior group. Both staff and the public will thus have to juggle initial and revised draft documents for two different groups within an overlapping 30-day window. This is simply not enough time for the public's input to be meaningful, and will likely lead to increased confusion and decreased confidence in both the process and the product.

These grouped chapters for the General Plan are likely to be lengthy and complex, and will require significant time for public review. For organizations such as Healthy Humboldt, we will need time to review and discuss these documents before we can provide informed and meaningful input in the way of suggestions or recommendations. Additionally, time will be needed for us to gather input from our supporters and from the broader community. We believe that a 60-day review period for the initial draft documents will improve the public's understanding of these documents, provide greater opportunity for meaningful input, and increase the public's confidence in the resulting General Plan.

We are aware that initial hearings on the first two Chapter Groups are already being scheduled, and that this 60-day review period simply could not be accommodated for these groups without creating a significant delay. Due to this, we believe that it would be prudent and reasonable to accept the 30-day review period for these first two groups and move towards the 60-day review period beginning with Group 3 or, if that cannot be accommodated, Group 4.

We thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely,

Mark Lovelace  
Healthy Humboldt Coalition

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