

PLANNING DIVISION OF THE
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT
COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT
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February 5, 2007

Jim Furtado, President
NCHB
PO Box 254
Eureka, CA 95502

Rob McBeth, President
Humboldt Builders Exchange
624 C Street
Eureka, CA 95501

Dear Jim and Rob:

Thank you for your continued interest in the General Plan Update process. This letter is in response to your correspondence dated February 1, 2007 regarding the public comment period for the Preliminary Hearing Draft process.

It is my understanding that you are requesting to extend the time frame for public review of the preliminary hearing draft materials from 30 days to 60 days. Please note that the process does allow for a 60 day comment period for consideration by the Planning Commission. Currently, the workshop materials are posted on the web and available for review 30 days prior to the first Planning Commission Hearing. The Planning Commission will take comments throughout this time period and make proposed revisions. Any proposed revisions will be brought back to the Commission for review at the next available Planning Commission General Plan meeting (usually 30 days from the first meeting). The Planning Commission will continue to take comments during this process to be incorporated into the final hearing draft.

Please also note that the review schedule spans a period of more than nine months, and this is just for preliminary draft sections. These sections are relatively short and focused, and making them available 30 days prior to the Planning Commission initial hearing is more than adequate. Our Commissioners have expressed concerns that when the process becomes too protracted, it is difficult for them to focus and have meaningful discussions.

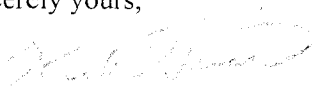
If we are able to keep the Planning Commission hearing schedule that was approved by the Board of Supervisors on December 5th, 2006, we will provide a 60 day review of the Final Hearing Draft in its entirety prior to the Planning Commission's final round of public hearings.

You also noted in your letter that the County has been actively working with other interest groups on draft plan documents before the official public review period, and you requested that your organizations be afforded the same opportunity to fully participate in the plan update as others have been. Please note that during the Planning Commissions initial review of the agricultural and timber policies on June 16, 2005, the Commissioners requested that staff go back to the Forestry Review Committee and seek input

on revisions to the Forest Resource Policies prior to returning to the Commission. To help facilitate this process, staff met with representatives of the industrial timber companies, major stakeholders for the over 600,000 acres of privately owned timberlands in the county, for comments on draft forest policies. These policies will then be forwarded to the Forestry Review Committee for review, as directed by the Planning Commission. Staff has not met with Humboldt Watershed Council or any other interest group regarding the development of draft plan language or policies.

Again, thank you for your continued interest in the General Plan Update. Please don't hesitate to contact Martha Spencer at 268-3704 if you have any questions, suggestions, or comments regarding this process. We are excited to be reaching the final phase of the General Plan process and appreciate your involvement along the way.

Sincerely yours,



Kirk Girard, Director
County of Humboldt Community Development Services

cc: Board of Supervisors, Planning Commissioners, Loretta Nicklaus and Carolyn Ruth