



“ Jobs, Homes & Individual Rights ”

March 25, 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:

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the General Plan update.

Regarding the issues discussed during your Commission meeting last Thursday, March 21, 2008, we have the following comments:

1. On the Planning Department’s timeline discussed during the Planning Commission meeting:
 - A We see no mention of the Notice of Preparation (NOP) of the EIR to the public, public agencies, or to the State OPR (Office of Planning and Research)
 - B We see no mention of the State identification number issued by the Clearinghouse. NOTE: According to CEQA: “The identification number should be referenced on all subsequent correspondence regarding the project,.....”.
 - C We see no mention of a scoping meeting for the DEIR (Draft EIR)
 - D According to the Planning Department’s proposed schedule, the EIR is being drafted prior to the Planning Commission decisions / recommendations. NOTE: It is premature to draft the EIR prior to the Planning Commission identifying the details of the preferred project / Sketch Plan.
 - E We see no mention of responses to comments on the Draft EIR
 - F We see no mention of the possible Recirculation of the EIR prior to certification
 - G We see no mention of the Final EIR being certified as adequate
 - H We see no mention of the Notice of Completion of the EIR.
2. We understand the County plans to perform the environmental impact analysis and prepare the EIR report internally, rather than contract out with a private environmental firm which specializes in and has proven technical expertise and CEQA experience. This concerns HELP. We would appreciate understanding the qualifications of the County staff who will be preparing these legal documents.
3. We urge the County to seriously consider CEQA requirements as the General Plan update progresses and the Environmental Impact Report is prepared. For further review of CEQA laws, please reference <http://www.ceres.ca.gov/ceqa/> .

Mr. Jeff Smith, Chairman

We, like you are eager to see the successful conclusion of this comprehensive General Plan update process currently underway. We are also driven by the desire to protect the environment, jobs, and homes for Humboldt families.

Thank you for considering these points.

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 Bonnie Neely, District 4
Supervisor/Chair Jill Geist, District 5
Loretta A. Nickolaus, County Administrative Officer
Kirk A. Girard, Community Development Services Director
Bob Best, Trainor Fairbrook

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