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GPA WORKSHOP

February 15, 2007

Planning Commission  
Community Development Department  
3015 H Street  
Eureka, CA 95503

Re: Chapter Group I Policies

Dear Commissioners and Staff,

On behalf of Redwood Alliance and our Climate Action Project, we are writing to provide comments and recommendations regarding the General Plan Update Alternatives, laid out in the first Chapter Group.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, a body composed of hundreds of scientists from over a hundred countries, recently issued preliminary findings of their Fourth Assessment Report. It concludes, with 90 percent certainty, that the accelerated climate warming over the last 50 years is caused by human activity, and that action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions is warranted.

The General Plan shares a responsibility to future generations to create community infrastructures that reduce energy use and rely on clean, renewable energy. By creating buildings and infrastructure that save energy, and by creating communities that are friendly to walking, biking, and public transportation, we create affordable and accessible communities for people of all income levels and physical abilities and a healthier and more prosperous future for all people.

Because of the looming climate crisis and in the face of increase energy costs in the future, we believe that Plan Alternative A is best suited to define the guiding principles for future development in Humboldt County. Furthermore, energy conservation and efficiency, and the need to create communities built around walking, biking, and public transportation, deserve to be specifically defined in those principles.

We suggest the following changes to the guiding principles of Plan Alternative A:

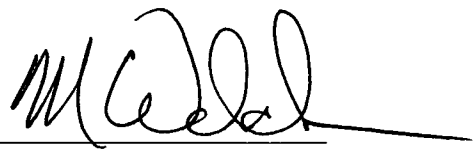
- 13. Promote the development of communities that allow and encourage pedestrian and bicycle traffic and public transportation and reduce the need for automobiles.
- 15. Encourage the adoption of natural resources conservation and energy efficiency in building and planning practices and facilitate their implementation through educational programs, initiatives, policies, incentives and technical assistance.

Thank you for this opportunity for public comment. We look forward to working with you during the General Plan Update process.

Sincerely,



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