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GPA Workshop

February 15, 2007

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HUMBOLDT COUNTY
PLANNING DIVISION

Humboldt County Planning Commission
c/o Humboldt County Community
Development Services
3015 H Street
Eureka, CA 95501

RE: February 15, 2007, Public Hearing Workshop: Humboldt County General Plan Update

Dear Commission Members:

I am presenting comment on behalf of Barnum Timber Company and representatives from Green Diamond Resource Company, The Pacific Lumber Company, Sierra Pacific Industries and Western Timber Services. This group, which includes both large and non-industrial timberland owners, represents the majority of private timberland ownership in Humboldt County.

We as a group have been working with planning department staff in reviewing and commenting upon various draft materials of the General Plan Update. To date, we have spent collectively many hundreds of hours during the past three years on the Update. Because of its importance to our landowners' business and the health of the environment and economy of Humboldt County, we offer the following comment at this time:

- We request the Planning Commission to direct planning department staff to continue to seek and ultimately incorporate input from our group of timberland owners in order to meet the objectives of the General Plan. We are timberland owners and managers that are responsible for one of Humboldt County's key base industries and preservation of much of its privately-owned open space: Recognizing the importance of our input is essential to successful achievement of the General Plan's objectives and implementation of its policies.
- We request that the Planning Commission to affirm to the planning department staff the importance of the Humboldt County Forestry Review Committee in developing and approving any General Plan policies that affect forest resources. We are concerned because planning department staff has repeatedly stated that they will bring the forest resources element reports to the Forestry Review Committee for development and review, which has not yet occurred.
- We request that the Planning Commission outline its role in development of the General Plan Update content and review. We believe that the Planning Commission is the entity that is required to take the lead in the development of the General Plan Update and is responsible for directing staff in how the General Plan policies shall be implemented. We request that the Planning Commission not delegate its responsibilities to staff and stay actively engaged in the Update process.

Thank you very much for the opportunity at this time to comment on the General Plan Update. You can expect that we will have further input as your public hearing process continues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen R. Horner", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Stephen R. Horner
RPF #2441