



TEL (707) 822-7720

FAX (707) 822-7369

P.O. BOX 237 BAYSIDE, CA 95524
880 L STREET ARCATA, CA 95521

CA LIC. #888941 *A California Corp.

March 15, 2007

Humboldt County Planning Commission
3015 H Street
Eureka, CA 95501-4484
Attn: Michael Wheeler,
Tom Hofweber and
Michael Richardson

Subject: Comments on Group 2 Hearing Drafts of the General Plan Update

Members of the Planning Commission,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Humboldt County General Plan Update for Group 2. I appreciate all the work that you have done on the General Plan which helps community members and organizations submit input for review and inclusion. The elements covered today are important to the guidance of sustainable economic development of Humboldt County over the next 20 years.

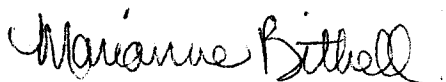
In regards to Chapter 16 – Mineral Resources, I would recommend Policies, Standards and Implementation Measures listed under Alternative A in Table 16-1 Plan Alternative Comparison Chart including MR-IM6 (Revise County Surface Mining Regulations) with all of the regulations located within the General Plan specific to Humboldt County.

The Energy element is probably the most important part of this grouping today. It will influence many other aspects beyond energy. I am thankful that it will be included in the General Plan especially in light of the current climate change issues we are all facing over the next 20 years. This element is extensive and I support the comments of the Redwood Alliance, Steve Salzman of Plan It Green and Chris Hulls that have been submitted to you for review. I definitely hope you include the references to LEED standards of energy efficiency for buildings (they were in alternative A) which will help Humboldt move towards Green Building standards.

When I spoke to the Board of Supervisors back on August 24, 2004, I emphasized the need to address more seriously Chapter 18 – Waste Management. From the recommendations I have reviewed, I do not see any improvement from what was originally in the General Plan. The reference to changing the wording in WM-P13 is fine except as in Chapter 16, the

IWMP must be included within the General Plan and there should be recommendations from the county within the General Plan. There is no vision beyond the acceptance that we are able to truck all our waste out of the county for the next twenty years. This is not guidance for the future. Deferment to the HWMA as in Chapter 17 to the RCEA is good with the exception that the IWMP has not been updated to current needs and goals. Therefore I recommend that inclusion of new guidelines be included. The waste stated in this element can and is currently being resourced as economically viable material being processed here locally. These are viable resources we should count along with our natural resources. There is no infrastructure for some of the waste management issues we currently have here in Humboldt. Due to the fact that the IWMP is outdated, I recommend inclusion of guidelines in the General Plan to the HWMA for the IWMP. My recommendation would be the same as Steve Salzman's from Plan It Green which is to have Zero Waste Goals. He has included information that will be helpful for those inclusions in this element. In regards to Chapter 19, I would again recommend the same as Steve Salzman. Again, thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marianne Bithell".

Marianne Bithell
Project Management Assistant