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Some thoughts on planning for the future:

Not all the people in the world can live in the USA. Not all the people in the USA can live in CA. Not all the people in CA can live in Humboldt Co. And as long as the cost of housing in Humboldt Co is cheap compared to other coastal CA communities, it will continue to inflate regardless of how much housing is built.

Some sustainable ways to create affordable housing might be renewal of current degraded properties, infill, inclusionary zoning in any new developments , incentives, and increased economic diversity and health. In other words, decent paying jobs. Simply building more housing will not create lower prices. It did not work anywhere else in CA and it won't work here.

Our paradigm of continuous growth as a vehicle for economic well being is flawed. It leads directly to the problems we are currently experiencing. Boom and bust, inflation, and contraction, the huge moral and physical expense of global economic and military domination to maintain our habits.

Energy wise, the great flowering of American culture of the past century has been based on the somewhat wanton use of nonrenewable resources. This has not only depleted said resources, but created incredible global pollution and the economic discrepancies which require us to maintain a huge military establishment to support our domination of the globe's resources. When 5% of the population is using 25% of the energy and natural resources of the globe, you know it cannot peaceably continue.

Sustainability means living within our means. Economic health based on continuous physical growth in a finite physical space, such as a county, state , country or planet, cannot in the end be sustainable or healthy. Such an economic system is a pyramid scheme, such continuous growth on a physical scale is in danger of being cancerous or at least leading to morbid obesity. This does not mean we cannot continue to develop; development, diversification and renewal are critical to continued physical and economic health. It's just that there indeed ARE limits, physical limits, to healthy growth, and on a planet which already has four to five times the number of humans who could be supported at a 20th century American standard of living, one really has to think long and hard about what we should be doing in the 21st century which will create and sustain a decent future for our children and grandchildren. I know for sure it is NOT "business as usual".

Respectfully submitted,

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