

April 19, 2007

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

Re: Chapter 1 Policies

Dear Commissioner and Staff,

Right now is the time to put Humboldt County on the path to energy independence and to do our part to reduce our nation's reliance on foreign oil and natural gas. We must act individually, through the business community and at all levels of government. By choosing Plan Alternative A, we can cost effectively implement projects that build our infrastructure in a way that reduces our reliance on unsustainable resources. We all have a role to play in the future of our county and our world.

As Vice President of the Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District, I recognize the need for our district to work towards meeting the guidelines of California's new Global Warming Solutions Act (AB32) in order to operate successfully in the future. Our board has recently supported this position by including it in our district goals as we consider the implications of our operations. As one of the largest single users of electricity in Humboldt County, this is a huge step forward that will ensure the district continues to be a leader in our community.

We have also recently received a feasibility study for a 179 kW photovoltaic plant. If built, this will be larger than any other PV installation in the history of Humboldt County. Why is this important? Because reducing our demand for fossil fuel is the right thing to do both morally and in the long term, financially. It shows leadership to the rest of our community as we build tomorrow's infrastructure. It reduces our craving for foreign natural gas, diversifies our energy supply and helps ease the burden on California's strained energy grid. Perhaps most importantly, as experts predict energy costs continuing to rise, it can help reduce the long term cost of pumping water and be the best financial choice for our district and our community.

The choice before you now is how to set policy that will guide Humboldt County's energy future. By choosing Plan Alternative A, we can focus on cost effective solutions of energy efficiency and conservation. We can choose to promote a green-building friendly permitting process and advocate for alternative transportation options, creating a community that will be sustainable in the long term.

The one word that best describes the citizens of our county is probably "Independent". Please consider the lasting benefits of Plan Alternative A, the independence it provides us, and how it will help us address what will be one of the most difficult problems of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Thank you for your time and this opportunity for public comment,

Sincerely,

Randy Turner  
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