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MAY 17 2007

Humboldt County Planning Commission
Humboldt County Courthouse
Eureka, California 95501

HUMBOLDT COUNTY
PLANNING DIVISION

Dear Commissioners:

Re: General Plan Review (May, 2007)

As you read Chapter 11, Economic Development Element, write-up, a bias becomes very evident.

"No one industry dominates the local economy today"

"forest products industry...about equal to research and health care industries"

"Humboldt County's economic competitiveness depends a great deal on its beautiful setting, small town character, and vibrant creative culture."

(Goal) "Natural Resource Assets. To protect productive agricultural, mineral resource, timber, and coastal dependent lands (which is what????)."

Protection of the environment, promotion of economies not based on traditional resource products, and playing down use of natural resources shows up all over the place. The number one nongovernmental, nontaxpayer supported economic driver in this county, use of natural resources, is treated like a distant cousin.

Where does the writer get off separating organic milk and sustainable forest management from traditional natural resource and agricultural industries? Is this an attempt to try and reduce the true impact of the resource based economies?

The goals and conclusions ignore one of the most factually correct points made in the write-up. "Federal, state, and local regulatory policies and codes have a significant effect on the economy." It is very true that the combined effective of the poor and unimaginative application of "ALL" regulations is preventing the full and proper use of the county's resources. This is a point that needs to be on everyone's mind when more restrictions are contemplated for the General Plan.

Isn't it time to stop hammering those who make a living from the land and who are a main reason this county keeps going? Why does the write-up push for more restrictions on open space lands? Reduced income potential from the land and reduced desire and financial ability to hold land in private ownership just results in more development and Public Trust ownerships and more and more dependence on governmental, taxpayer handouts.

Shouldn't it be a General Plan goal to promote finding ways to stimulate and increase proper use of resources? This would provide for positive changes in affordable housing, local jobs, and economies supporting this county. In addition, proper maximization of local resources would reduce our dependence on recently reported unsafe foreign import products.

Yours,



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cc: Humboldt County Supervisors