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HUMBOLDT COUNTY
PLANNING DIVISION

Attn: Martha Spencer
Humboldt County Planning Commission
Community Development Services
3015 "H" Street
Eureka, California 95501

May 16, 2007 (for Planning Commission meeting May 17)

Re: Chapter 11 Economic Development Element of General Plan Update

Dear Planning Commissioners:

In addition to supporting the positions as specified in letters submitted by the Healthy Humboldt Coalition, I would like to add the following comments:

1. Goals/Policies/Implementation Measures should more fully reflect the restoration industry and the emerging ecomarketplace (carbon offset credits, etc) throughout the Plan Alternatives Comparison Chart (Table 11-1).
2. The feasibility, pros, and cons of incubating innovative start-ups as opposed to attracting large industrial projects to the area should be reflected in the report.
3. The Foreign Trade Zone was omitted, yet port/rail development is considered at length. Negative effects of a large-scale container port project on other economic development alternatives for Humboldt Bay should be considered.
4. A Living Wage ordinance has been used successfully in many communities to address affordable housing and smart growth objectives. Such an ordinance should be included in the Economic Development Element as another potential tool to consider.

Thank you for considering these comments. I would be happy to provide some suggested language for a Living Wage ordinance.

Sincerely,



Dave Spreen
P.O. Box 113
Kneeland, CA 95549
Tel: 707-445-2244
Fax: 707-445-1024
Email: dspreen@humboldt1.com