

June 27, 2007

Mr. Steve Launi
Chairman
Humboldt County Forestry Review Committee

Dear Mr. Launi and Committee Members:

As representatives of the timberland owners constituting a majority of the timberland ownership in Humboldt County we respectfully submit the following comments on the Forest Resources Element of the General Plan Update. Please be aware that prior to your meeting of June 13, 2007, we submitted detailed edits of the staff version of the Element that reflected changes we believe will enhance and protect the Forest Resource policies of the existing General Plan.

In particular, our comments over the past two years regarding the Forest Resources Element can be summarized as follows:

- Recommend repeal of the Merger Ordinance to the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors, which you have already directed staff to convey to the Board and has yet to be done.
- Maintain the existing minimum TPZ zoned parcel size of 160-acres, with the ability to reduce to 40-acres with an approved Joint Timber Management Plan.
- Maintain the current practice of recognizing and certifying existing, sub-standard TPZ parcels.
- Maintain "housing by right" for TPZ parcels as allowed by the current Framework Plan.

As a group, we have met many times and worked closely with Planning staff to communicate our suggestions that will best protect Humboldt County's forest resources and help the local forestland owners and forest products industry remain economically viable. We are uniquely qualified to offer these comments that will improve the current draft Element. **If our comments are not incorporated into "Alternative B," as written, then we cannot support the Forest Resources Element as currently drafted.** In the event that our comments are not incorporated into Alternative B, we'd like to see "Alternative D," along with rescission of the Merger Ordinance, specified as the preferred alternative for the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors.

We ask that the FRC **FORMALLY** provide written recommendations to the Humboldt County Planning Commission regarding your direction on the General Plan Update.

Finally, it is apparent that the Forest Resources Element is not the only General Plan Update chapter that the Forestry Review Committee should be reviewing: The chapters on Conservation and Open Space Elements (chapter 12), Biological Resources (Chapter 14), and Cultural and Scenic Resources (chapter 15) are relevant to the charge of the FRC. It is imperative that the FRC review these chapters because they affect the forest resources, and in some cases their proposed policies could supersede policies in the Forest Resources Element.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



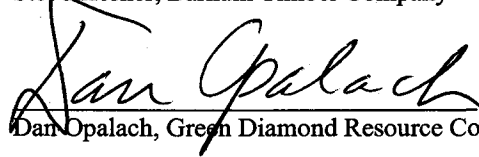
Bill Blackwell, Sierra-Pacific Industries



Steve Horner, Barnum Timber Company



Bill Kleiner, Western Timber Services



Dan Opalach, Green Diamond Resource Co.