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July 26, 2007

Tom Hofweber, Supervising Planner, Humboldt County
Community Services Department
County of Humboldt
3015 H Street
Eureka, Ca. 95501

Re: Comments on Cultural & Scenic Resources Chapter for General Plan Update (GPU)

Dear Tom Hofweber:

I, along with other local residents, appreciate the opportunity to comment on the development of the General Plan. I understand that this is a well-considered and complex process which the County staff and officials have made every effort to lead us through. However difficult, I believe it is only commensurate with the potential impact of these plans on the future of every resident of this County. It is with this civic responsibility in mind that I wish to encourage the County to support and adopt Plan Alternative A.

Although I have lived in Humboldt County for many years, I also spent over a decade working with cultural resources for the State of California. As a State Historian at the State Office of Historic Preservation I was fortunate to advise local governmental agencies, tribal entities, community organizations, and many individual property owners in their efforts to identify, preserve and promote appreciation of their cultural heritage.

Some of the recommended practices and measures contained in Alternative A may seem unfamiliar, but I assure you that these are the norm in tens of thousands of communities large and small across the United State. One key tool is the Certified Local Government program, established by the federal government in 1980 to support local governments in their efforts to incorporate the stewardship of heritage resources into local planning. This program provides both technical assistance and a competitive grant program to enable local governments to implement a program that is designed for their community.

The rehabilitation of historic resources conserves economic and natural resources by using existing infrastructure, including transportation and energy networks, and helps to preserve the character of our rural communities. In my present capacity, as a cultural resources consultant, I have come to appreciate the great diversity of this shared heritage and our shared responsibility for its documentation, interpretation and preservation. We benefit from the efforts of individuals and organizations with the foresight to preserve the heritage of their family or tribal group, and their community. It is time for local government to step forward and take a leadership role.

Sincerely,



Suzanne Guerra

Humboldt County Planning Commissioners:

- Sef Murguia, District 1
- Thomas Herman, District 2
- Richard Hansis, District 3
- Jeff Smith, District 4
- Scott Kelly, District 5
- Bruce Emad, At-Large
- Mary Gearheart, At-Large