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**From:** Eugene Perricelli [mailto:ceperr@sbcglobal.net]

**Sent:** Thursday, October 18, 2007 8:36 AM

**To:** Spencer, Martha

**Subject:** GP Hearing tonight

## **Chapter 4 – Managing Growth and Chapter 5 – Land Use Element.**

A Plea for Sustainability (AKA Alternative A)

For the past hundred years or so, we as a species have been living, prospering and growing based on the consumption of resources which took millions of years to create and store, are finite and are becoming harder and more expensive to acquire. It's been a great party, particularly if you live in a wealthy and developed country. It has the same chance of continuing as a successful life strategy as a family living on credit cards. We are and have been living beyond our environmental, physical means. In our haste to do well and be wealthy, we have squandered our non renewable resource base and in the process damaged our renewable resource base.

Any system based on continuous growth is ultimately going to be unsustainable. The earth, after all, is finite. The amount of stored energy is finite and dwindling. The amount renewable energy and resources is ultimately also finite. The earth is only so big... .

I am here because I hope that your children and grandchildren and mine will inherit an earth which is rich in resources, clean, healthy, sustaining and peaceful. What we have been working on here in Humboldt County is integral to that happening. The alternative to planning for sustainability on a global scale is planning for more resource wars (we're in one now, by the way), more environmental destruction, more pollution, more mass migration of the have nots to the spaces of the haves, in short, more global disruptions of the kind we are used to reading about as opposed to experiencing directly.

Limits. Some see limits as limiting our freedom. As the air, the water and the local and global resource base connect and affect us all, we really don't have the inherent right to do whatever we like with what we consider to be our personal property, which after all we only hold for a finite lifetime. We owe something to our neighbors, local and global, and our progeny. Limits. We need them. Limits in population, consumption, and physical growth are ultimately what will set us free. We do not need these limits in creativity, diversification of our economic base, internal (personal) and external (community) development, which I would argue differs from traditional "growth" and enriches rather than depletes. We do not need limits on restoration of our local resource base or rehabilitation of our urban spaces.

May your decisions be guided by a vision of a healthy, vibrant and sustainable community standing out as a beacon to others of "what can be". Throughout the General Plan, the options in Alternative A would help achieve this.

Thank you for your time and attention,

Claire Perricelli,  
Eureka

