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W119

August 16, 2007

Mr. Thomas Herman, Chairman  
Planning Commission  
County of Humboldt  
825 Fifth Street, Room 111  
Eureka, California 95501

Subject: General Plan Update  
Forest Resources policies

Dear Chairman Herman and Members of the Commission:

We appreciate this opportunity to comment on the Forest Resources policies which will be addressed in the update of the County's General Plan.

HELP is a group of volunteers from many walks of life who came together in January 2004 to encourage the County to bring balance to the update of the General Plan. Members include homebuilders, former Humboldt County planner, landowners with small single family lots as well as owners of larger properties, realtors, people working for utility companies, teachers, high school students, those in finance and accounting, insurance sales, chamber of commerce members, general contractors and suppliers, consultants specializing in timber lands, attorneys, retired people, homemakers, landplanners, landscape architects, forest product sales, a Humboldt Harbor Commissioner, a member of the Humboldt Community Services District Board, homeowners, and individuals who would like to be homeowners someday.

At the June 27, 2007 FRC meeting, staff was asked to bring the exact wording of FRC's recommendations back to the committee for approval and signature. Instead, staff scheduled an FRC meeting for August 8<sup>th</sup> and had County consultant Andrea Tuttle make a presentation in an attempt to influence the outcome of the FRC's recommendations to the Commissioners and Supervisors.

As of the June 27<sup>th</sup> meeting, County staff was under the impression that County consultant Andrea Tuttle was a Registered Professional Forester. This was clarified by Ms. Tuttle at the August 8<sup>th</sup> FRC meeting, stating that her credentials do not include RPF.

The County agreement with Ms. Tuttle is not dated, but states that it takes effect the day it is signed and it ends 6 months from that date. The County is paying Tuttle \$10,000 to consult on the forest resources policies, with an option to amend the agreement up to \$50,000.

We urge the Commission to ask the following questions:

#1 Why is the County spending thousands of taxpayers dollars to try to pursued the Forestry Review Committee members to change their recommendations when all of the committee members are Registered Professional Foresters?

Mr. Tom Herman, Chairman 8-16-07, cont'd

#2 Why does the County tolerate the lack of professional support from County staff? They were directed to bring back the exact wording of the FRC's recommendations to the Committee. They did not. Instead staff forwarded the FRC draft recommendations to you for your meeting this evening without final approval from the FRC. The FRC has not concluded their resource policy discussions -- additional issues will be addressed during future FRC meetings.

HELP members have attended many of the Forest Review Committee meetings over the past several years. We have serious concerns that their recommendations be presented to your Commission and the Board of Supervisors without interference from County staff.

Over a year and a half ago, FRC heard extensive testimony from the public regarding the proposed merger proposal. FRC has repeatedly expressed serious concerns about the attempt by some at the County to merge TPZ parcels smaller than 600 acres. HELP shares those concerns. The merger proposal would erode existing property rights even further and result in compounding the already devastating ramifications to your fellow citizens.

Implementing policies which would help revitalize the timber industry is critical to the County's economic and social wellbeing. More regulations are not the answer. Regulations only serve to force timber operations to go out of business and dry up jobs and tax revenues. If the current trend continues, we will see fewer and fewer lands dedicated to this resource.

We appreciate this opportunity to participate in the General Plan update and especially thank you for being open to considering the various view points from all County citizens.

Sincerely,

Kay Backer, representing  
Humboldt Economic & Land Plan

cc: Bruce Emad, Planning Commissioner  
Mary Gearheart, Planning Commissioner  
Richard Hansis, Planning Commissioner  
Scott Kelly, Planning Commissioner  
Sef Murguia, Planning Commissioner  
Jeff Smith, Planning Commissioner  
Supervisor Jimmy Smith, District 1  
Supervisor Roger Rodoni, District 2  
Supervisor John Woolley, District 3  
Supervisor/Chair Bonnie Neely, District 4  
Supervisor Jill Geist, District 5  
Loretta A. Nickolaus, County Administrative Officer  
Kirk A. Girard, Community Development Services Director  
Ralph Faust, County Counsel  
Robert K. Best, Trainor Fairbrook Attorneys

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**ATTACHMENT 1  
Staff Analysis of the Evidence Supporting the Required Findings**

**Required Findings:** To approve this project, the Hearing Officer shall determine that the applicants have submitted evidence in support of making all of the following required findings.

**Staff Analysis**

The following tables provide evidence in support of the required findings for the (A) Lot Line Adjustment and (B) Coastal Development, Conditional Use Permit and Special Permit:

- A1. The Lot Line Adjustment application is complete;
- A2. The project is consistent with the Subdivision Map Act;
- A3/B1. The project conforms with zoning and building ordinances, and conforms with all applicable standards and requirements of the coastal zoning regulations;
- A4/B2. The project is consistent with the General Plan; and
- A5/B3. The project, and the conditions under which it may be operated or maintained, will not be detrimental to the public health, safety and welfare; will not adversely impact the environment; and the required CEQA findings can be made for any development which is subject to the regulations of CEQA.

**A1. The application is Complete:** The following table identifies the evidence which supports the finding that the applicant has submitted the information which is required by Section 325.5-6(a) of the Humboldt County Code.

<b>Application Requirements</b>	<b>Submitted</b>
Completed and Signed Application Form	✓
Copies of Present Owners Deeds	✓
Lot Book Report or Title Report	✓
Copy of the Creation Documents for the parcels	✓
15 Copies of a Lot Line Adjustment Plot Plan	✓
Required County Fees	✓
A Written Statement Explaining the Reasons For the Adjustment (Project Description)	✓

**A2. Consistency with the Subdivision Map Act:** The following table identifies the evidence which supports the finding that the parcels to be adjusted are found to be in compliance with the Subdivision Map Act which is required by Section 325.5-6(b) of the Humboldt County Code.

<b>PARCEL</b>	<b>CREATION DOCUMENT</b>	<b>LEGAL STATUS</b>
APNs: 514-011-10 514-031-06 514-031-07	The lands covered by this project consist of Lots 7, 8, 9, 10 & 11 in Block 1 of Westhaven as per map recorded in Book 11, Page 19 of Maps on file in the Office of the Humboldt County Recorder. Deeds reflecting three (3) separate legal parcels have been recognized by the Planning Division.	Legal, a voluntary merger is proposed between Lot 9, 10 & 11. The Lot Line Adjustment appropriates equal portions of Lot 8 between the resulting merged parcel and Lot 7.

Based upon requirements of the County Lot Line Adjustment Ordinance, and due to requirements in the Subdivision Map Act, a Notice of Lot Line Adjustment must be recorded for each resultant parcel.