

HUMBOLDT 21st Century

GUIDELINES FOR THE GENERAL PLAN UPDATE PLANNING COMMISSION HEARING PROCESS

OVERVIEW:

Humboldt County is entering the final phase of the General Plan Update process and will be conducting a series of public hearings with the Planning Commission on the Hearing Draft of the Humboldt County General Plan. These guidelines are intended to help explain the Planning Commission meeting process and the work products that will be provided to the Commission along the way. This process is not definitive; however, and changes may occur when necessary to help assist the Planning Commission with their decision making duties.

PROCESS:

- Step 1.** Planning staff will **present the Plan Alternatives -Key Issues and Comparison Charts** to the Planning Commission and the public by outlining the key issues and how each alternative addresses these issues through the proposed policies (see below for information on the charts) and respond to Commissioner questions.
- Step 2.** The Planning Commission will then **open the meetings to the public** for comments on the draft plan and the alternatives.
- Step 3.** The **Planning Commission will then review through the charts policy by policy** and give staff instructions to provide revisions to the policies or more information to assist the Planning Commission with their decision making duties.
- Step 4.** Once the Commissioners feel that they have adequate information and are comfortable with the wording of the policies, they will **take a “straw” poll on each policy**. These decisions will then be reflected in the “Tentative PC Position Charts” (see below).
- Step 5.** A final draft of the position charts reflecting the **Planning Commission’s recommendations will be forwarded to the Board** of Supervisors for review.

Please Note: Planning staff will post the Plan Alternatives -Key Issues and Comparison Charts prior to the Planning Commission meeting in order to provide an adequate review time for both the public and the Commissioners. New material requested by the Commissioners will be available on the Wednesday before the hearing (unless there is only one week between meetings).

Charts:

Plan Alternatives -Key Issues and Comparison Charts

The Key Issues and Plan Alternatives Comparison charts explain what the major issues are and list the goals, policies, standards, and Implementation Measures for plan alternatives A, B, C and D in one chart for comparison purposes. Copies are available on the GPU website at www.planupdate.org.

Tentative PC Position Charts

These are modified Plan Alternative Comparison Charts that reflect the Planning Commission positions. They will have a faster turn-around time than the original Plan Alternatives charts. Each time a new chart is made based on the positions expressed by the Commissioners, the chart will be posted on web with the hearing date during which the positions were taken (“From Hearing of...”).

Public Comments:

This is a public process and all public comments are encouraged. There are many avenues for submitting comments to the Planning Commission. Verbal testimony during the public hearings may be limited due to time availability but all written comments will be forwarded to the Commissioners for their review. All comments will be posted on the web site. If comments are transmitted electronically, planning staff will provide hard copies of comments 2 pages or less to the Planning Commission; all others will be forwarded electronically. If you want the Commissioners to receive hard copies of comments exceeding 2 pages, please submit 14 copies and an original.

Public Outreach (how you can stay informed):

The Planning Commission Hearing Draft, support documents and a schedule of the proposed hearing dates for the Draft Plan are available at the Humboldt County Planning Division's website: www.planupdate.org. We will also try to provide a small number of copies of the material under discussion at the back of the Board chambers during the Planning Commission meeting. Hard copies of the draft plan and support documents will also be available for viewing at the County library and at the Humboldt County Community Development Services; Planning Division, located at 3015 "H" Street in Eureka.

For further information, or to be placed on the email list to receive notices of upcoming meetings and release of any support documents relating to the draft General Plan, please contact Martha Spencer by email at mspencer@co.humboldt.ca.us or by telephone at (707) 268-3704.