



PLANNING DIVISION
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

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DATE: March 5, 2007
TO: Humboldt County Planning Commission
FROM: Kirk A. Girard, Director of Community Development Services
SUBJECT: **Staff Report # 2 for Group 1 Documents (Part 1 of the General Plan Hearing Draft)**

RECOMMENDED COMMISSION ACTION:

It is recommended that the Commission take the following actions:

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Open the public hearing and receive the staff report presentation.
2. Survey the audience for anyone who would like to discuss the staff report or draft chapters.
3. Deliberate on the markup of the draft chapters (Attachment A), and provide direction to staff on suggested modifications.

SUMMARY

At the Planning Commission's first meeting on Group 1 on February 15, 2007, the Commission received an overview of the staff report outlining the General Plan Update Program and the review process for the Preliminary Hearing Draft.

The Commission received testimony from 16 people, and has received nine written comments to date regarding the Group 1 draft. Staff reviewed and indexed these comments, and together with the Commission's discussion, staff has drafted a markup of Group 1 (Attachment A) that considers this input, and forms the staff recommendation for Commission consideration.

The markup of Group 1 includes marginal notations which indicate when comments were made about a section, with a comment index number to indicate the source of the comment. Written comments are indexed as "W1, W2", etc, verbal comments are "V1, V2" etc., and Planning Commission comments are referenced as "PC1, PC2" etc. The Commission was already presented with all the written comments; summaries of verbal comments from the public at the 2-15-07 hearing and Planning Commission comments are attached.

Attachment B provides the staff analysis of the proposed changes in the markup of Group 1. In making recommendations to the Commission, staff is focused on providing a clear, consistent document, and on developing a good set of alternatives which reflect a reasonable range of choices. Staff will continue to recommend classifying each policy as either Alternative A, B, or C, according to the Board approved definitions. It is staff's recommendation that the Commission will ultimately select a combination of policies that, whether they be from A, B, or C, becomes the Planning Commission's preferred alternative.

Proposed Planning Commission Review Process

Currently, the workshop materials are posted on the web and available for review 30 days prior to the first Planning Commission Hearing. It is recommended that the Planning Commission take comments throughout this time period, hold the public hearing workshop and make proposed revisions. Any proposed revisions will then be brought back to the Commission for review at the next available Planning Commission General Plan meeting (usually 30 days from the first meeting). The Planning Commission will continue to take comments during this process to be incorporated into the final hearing draft. If

will continue to take comments during this process to be incorporated into the final hearing draft. If needed, a third meeting will be scheduled for review and revision of the draft materials. If we are able to keep the Planning Commission hearing schedule that was approved by the Board of Supervisors on December 5th, 2006, we will provide a 60 day review of the Final Hearing Draft in its entirety prior to the Planning Commission's final round of public hearings.

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment A: March 4, 2007 Markup of Group 1 (Part 1 of the Preliminary Hearing Draft)
- Attachment B: Staff discussion and analysis of Markup and comments.
- Attachment C: Planning Commission comments and staff responses from the meeting of 2/15/07
- Attachment D: Summary of verbal testimony presented at the 2/15/07 meeting

Attachment A
March 4, 2007 Markup of Group 1
(Part 1 of the Preliminary Hearing Draft)



Part 1 – Setting

Section Overview

Part 1 of the plan discusses the purpose, form and content of the General Plan. This includes a review of the Plan's intended uses and guiding principles, the Plan development process and a reader's guide. Also included are policies regarding public participation, maintenance and amendments to the Plan, and inter-governmental coordination.

Humboldt County

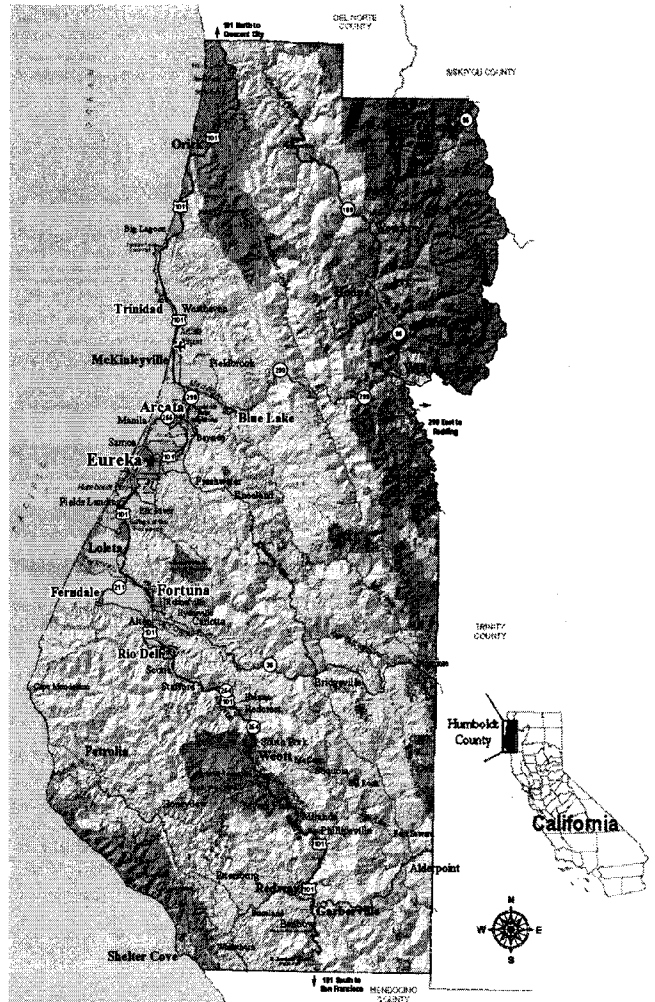
Humboldt County, located in northwest California, is the southern gateway to the Pacific Northwest. The County encompasses 2.3 million acres, 80 percent of which is forested. Thirty percent of the County is State or Federal public lands, with major land holdings including Redwood National and State Parks in the north, Six Rivers National Forest in the east, King Range National Conservation Area along the south coast, and Humboldt Redwoods State Park along the Avenue of the Giants in the south central area.

Humboldt County typically leads the state in timber production. Agriculture and fishing are other important base industries.

The major population centers include Eureka, Arcata, McKinleyville, and Fortuna. Humboldt Bay acts as the focal point of the County, serving as the port and center of commerce, as well as a significant natural resource area, including the Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Area. The Bay also provides most of the State's oyster production. The extensive bottom land flood plains of Humboldt Bay and the Eel River delta support the County's dairy industry.

The Coast Ranges dominate the landscape of much of the County, and include the Eel, Van Duzen, Mattole, and Mad River drainages in the central and southern areas, and the Redwood Creek drainage in the northwest. In the northeast, the higher steeper terrain of the Klamath Mountains province is drained by the Klamath and Trinity Rivers. Offshore of Cape Mendocino is one of the most seismically active areas in the world, where three tectonic plates converge. It is also an area of intensive ocean upwelling and rich marine productivity.

The natural resources and scenic beauty of the County make it a popular tourist destination, and the reason why many people choose to live here.



W8

W8

W8