

Appendix D: Existing Policy Worksheet

The following list of existing General Plan policies corresponds to the policies described in the individual chapters of this report. This worksheet is provided as a tool for members of the public to indicate preferences for retaining, modifying, or deleting current policies. For those policies marked as “Modify”, please state how the policy should be modified in the comments column.

<i>Policy</i>	<i>Retain</i>	<i>Modify</i>	<i>Delete</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Water Resources				
1. Ensure that land use decisions are consistent with the long term value of water resources in Humboldt County.				
2. Regulate development that would pollute watershed areas.				
3. Ensure that the intensity and timing of new development will be consistent with the capacity of water supplies.				
4. Existing water uses shall be considered during the review for new water uses.				
5. The availability of groundwater should be used as a prime factor in determining the desirable amount of residential development in a particular area in order to protect groundwater resources from depletion or contamination.				
6. Projects must provide evidence of water availability prior to recordation of map.				
7. Maximize the use of water conservation techniques appropriate for new and existing development.				
8. Continue participation in all state, regional or local water resource planning efforts effecting surface run-off or groundwater supplies.				
9. Encourage further investigation on the County's water resources by federal and state water resource agencies.				
10. Large water export projects will not be approved or supported unless specific requirements and assurances are satisfied. These shall include the 1978 water policy statement policies regarding "Water Export Projects on Humboldt County Streams". (See Standards 5a-1)				
11. Support flow release schedules from existing reservoirs that maintain or enhance the fisheries of those rivers.				
12. Support the development of fisheries enhancement projects on small Humboldt County streams.				

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13. Ensure that projects located within state designated wild, scenic or recreational river basins are consistent with the guidelines in the State Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (as amended).				
14. The development of environmentally sound small hydroelectric projects on publicly and privately owned lands in Humboldt County is generally encouraged. The County should only examine small hydroelectric project proposals for impacts not reviewed by other agencies and for overall consistency with the intent of the General Plan.				
Biological Resources				
1. Maintain values of significantly important habitat areas by assuring compatible adjacent land uses, where feasible.				
2. Habitats for "critical species" shall be protected under provisions of NEPA and CEQA.				
3. Development within stream channels shall be permitted when there is no less environmentally damaging feasible alternative, where the best feasible mitigation measures have been provided to minimize adverse environmental effects, and shall be limited to essential, nondisruptive projects as listed in Standard 6.				
4. To protect sensitive fish and wildlife habitats and to minimize erosion, runoff and interference with surface water flows, the County shall maintain Streamside Management Areas (SMA), along its blue line streams as identified on the largest scale U.S.G.S. topographic maps most recently published, and any significant drainage courses identified through the CEQA process.				
5. Development within the Streamside Management Areas shall be permitted where mitigation measures (Standard 8) have been provided to minimize any adverse environmental effects, and shall be limited to uses as described in Standard 7.				
6. The Biological Resource Maps shall be incorporated into the project review process in order to identify sensitive habitat concerns. These maps shall be kept up to date with the most recent information obtainable. Accommodation of new resource information on the Biological Resource Maps may require an amendment to the adopted General Plan.				
7. The County should request the Department of Fish and Game, as well as other appropriate agencies and organizations to review plans for development				

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within sensitive habitat areas or Streamside Management Areas. Recommended mitigation measures shall be considered prior to project approval.				
Timberlands				
1. Timberlands shall be retained for timber production, harvesting and compatible uses, and reclassification of Timberland Production Zones (TPZ) shall be done in accordance with statutory requirements.				
2. Avoid, wherever practical, the location of any state or local public improvements and any improvements of public utilities, and the acquisition of land therefore, in Timberland Production Zones where the project will have a significant adverse effect on the production of timber.				
3. Encourage the long-term management of timberlands.				
4. Support the use of forest improvement programs, whether funded publicly or privately, whether in a TPZ or other forestland.				
5. Affirm and support the public services provided by County government which are necessary in maintaining a viable forest products industry.				
6. Encourage, consistent with the Rural Development Section 2550, improved site productivity, timber growth and harvesting through intensive forestry management.				
7. The County supports zoning correction of land from the Timberland Production Zone when it can be found that: A. The original inclusion was in error or inappropriate; or B. The conversion is necessary to provide for the logical expansion of an existing community.				
Agricultural Lands				
1. Agricultural lands shall be conserved and conflicts minimized between agricultural and non-agricultural uses through the following: A. By formulation of logical boundaries separating urban and rural areas and when necessary, buffer areas to minimize land use conflicts. B. By focusing future conversions in areas where				

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<p>land use conflicts would not threaten the viability of existing agriculture.</p> <p>C. By promoting in-filling to achieve a more logical urban/agricultural boundary.</p> <p>D. By allowing development of uneconomical or marginally viable agricultural lands, or agricultural lands already severely limited by conflicts with urban uses to limit the market pressures for conversion of more productive lands.</p> <p>E. By assuring that public service facility expansions and non-agricultural development do not inhibit agricultural viability through degraded water supplies, access systems, air quality, and other relevant considerations, such as increased assessment costs.</p> <p>F. By broadening the utility of agricultural preserves and the Williamson Act Program to accommodate and encourage intensively managed farms.</p>				
2. The conversion of economically viable agricultural lands shall be monitored and reported annually.				
3. In-filling shall be encouraged for all development.				
4. Prime agricultural land should be retained in parcel sizes large enough to provide for an economic management base.				
5. The County shall support predator control programs to reduce livestock depredation.				
6. Vegetation management programs (controlled burning, etc.) shall be supported where they improve the availability and quality of rangeland for livestock and wildlife, reduce the hazard of disastrous wildfires and increase water quality and quantity.				
7. Areas with General Plan designations of Agriculture Exclusive should not be annexed to cities or service districts providing sewer service unless it is in the public interest.				
8. The County Planning Department and Board of Supervisors will request the Local Agency Formation Commission to utilize the County's General Plan in advising the County on the appropriate level of services to be provided in the County's unincorporated areas.				
9. Agricultural production requiring smaller parcels and more intensive management, including				

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aquaculture shall be encouraged wherever feasible consistent with the Remote Rural Development Section 2550 and other policies of this section.				
10. The conversion of agricultural land should only be considered where continued agricultural production is not economically feasible and proposed development is consistent with Remote Rural Development Section 2550.				
11. Affirm and support the public services provided by County Government which are necessary in maintaining a viable agricultural products industry.				
Public Lands				
1. The Planning Commission shall be utilized as the advisory agency to the Board of Supervisors in coordinating with planning activities of public land agencies.				
2. The Planning Commission should be responsible for reviewing public land management and environmental documents.				
3. The Planning Commission should encourage applicable public land agencies that prepare management plans to: A. Ensure consistency with the General Plan. B. Promote and protect adjacent private resource production lands. C. Effectively utilize the multiple use concept. D. Emphasize the provision of low cost recreational opportunities, provided such opportunities do not compete with private enterprise. E. Place priority on development and maintenance of facilities over future acquisition. F. Maximize local employment.				
4. Full fee acquisitions should only be supported by the County where the acquisition: A. Is a part of an adopted management plan; and B. is within the management boundaries of the public lands, or is for the consolidation of management units; and C. is made from willing sellers; and D. is the last option after discussion with the property owner of all less than full fee alternatives.				

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5. Discourage acquisition and conversion of resource production lands to other uses.				
6. The County shall not support acquisitions through eminent domain, unless it is found to be: A. The last option after the opportunity for mutual agreement has been exhausted; or B. in the interest of public health, safety, and welfare; or C. required to protect public rights; or D. necessary to national security.				
7. Development adjacent to multiple use public lands shall be consistent with applicable resource production policies of the General Plan.				
8. Development in areas adjacent to public lands where resource production activities are not permitted shall be consistent with applicable rural development policies.				
9. Development within community planning areas adjacent to public lands shall be compatible with the management doctrines of applicable public land agencies.				
10. Subdivision of land within community planning areas adjacent to public lands should not be permitted, unless it can be found that creation and development of additional parcels will not be detrimental to the quality or activities conducted on public lands.				
11. The County should encourage the provision of the maximum amount of access to public lands and waterways consistent with: A. Public safety; B. Nearby access; C. Rights of private property owners; D. Natural resource protection; E. The Map Act.				
12. The County supports the disposal of surplus public lands to private ownership.				
13. Private ownerships designated Public Lands (P) may be developed, consistent with other regulations, where the proposed development is: A. Consistent with the resource production policies or B. When in, or adjacent to a Community Planning Area, or Rural Community Center, consistent				

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with existing or planned uses of the adjacent properties.				
Remote Rural Development				
1. Lands adjacent to areas designated as agricultural and timberlands in the General Plan should be planned for uses compatible with agriculture and timber wherever possible.				
2. Parcels in areas of Timber Site Quality III or higher should be retained for timber production or compatible uses wherever possible.				
3. Lands containing sensitive habitats should be developed consistent with the maintenance requirements of the habitat. (Sections 3400- 3433).				
4. Lands which contain identified hazards shall be developed consistent with the objective to reduce public exposure to the hazards.				
5. All development should be designed to minimize erosion and sedimentation.				
6. Any development plan or concept should be given consideration, provided that the intent of the General Plan is carried out.				
7. Cumulative impacts of water withdrawal from surface and groundwater sources and sewage disposal should be assessed during the zoning of all areas designated for Rural Development.				
County Parks and Recreation				
1. The County should continue to support efforts to acquire, develop, and maintain county parks and recreation areas that are highly accessible to the public, and serve the unstructured outdoor recreational needs of County residents and tourists.				
2. The County shall give priority to the County residents' outdoor recreational needs.				
3. Plans for the development of additional County recreational facilities and opportunities shall consider the County's long term capabilities for the maintenance of all facilities and opportunities.				
4. The County shall encourage the private acquisition, development, and preservation of outdoor recreational resources and opportunities and facilities, and the County will coordinate recreation plans with all appropriate agencies.				
5. The County shall pursue all feasible sources of funding for the maintenance, development or				

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acquisition of recreational facilities and programs consistent with this plan.				
6. The County Parks and Recreation Division staff shall continue to provide information regarding recreational opportunities within Humboldt County and input into land use planning decisions insofar as those decisions may effect recreational opportunities in the County.				
7. Policies addressing community recreational needs shall be prepared as part of each community plan.				
Education				
1. Cultural resources (including but not limited to archaeological, paleontological and architectural sites, grave sites and cemeteries) shall be identified where feasible, assessed as to significance, and if found to be significant, protected from loss or destruction.				
2. Concerned citizens, historical organizations and applicable agencies shall be consulted during project review for the identification and protection of cultural resources.				
3. Projects located in areas found to have cultural resources shall be conditioned and designed to avoid loss or degradation of these resources.				
4. Expert opinions and field reconnaissance at the applicant's expense may be required during environmental assessment to determine the presence, extent, and condition of cultural resources and the likely impact upon such resources.				
5. Archaeological and paleontological resources shall not be knowingly destroyed or lost through a discretionary action unless: A. The site or resource has been found to be of insignificant value by relevant experts and representatives of the cultural resources community, or; B. There is an overriding public benefit from the project, and compensating mitigation to offset the loss is made part of the project.				
6. Mitigation measures shall be required where new development would adversely impact archaeological or paleontological resources.				
Mineral and Energy Resources				
1. Maintain and update maps of the County's identified				

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mineral deposits.				
2. Plan future development such that it will not interfere with the utilization of identified mineral deposits.				
3. Ensure adverse environmental effects are prevented or mitigated to the fullest extent feasible and that mined lands are reclaimed to a usable condition which is readily adaptable for alternative land uses under the General Plan.				
4. Encourage the production and conservation of minerals, while preserving to the maximum extent feasible the values relating to recreation, watershed, wildlife, range and forage, science, and aesthetic enjoyment.				
5. Ensure elimination of residual hazards to the public health and safety.				
6. Prevent the disruption of community character in siting and planning mineral resource extraction operations.				
7. Require mineral haul routes to avoid incompatible areas such as landslides, highly erodible soils, residential areas, and schools, if feasible.				
8. Permit conditions for mineral extraction operations should address allowable dust and noise levels, hours of operation, fencing, traffic, access, setbacks and other means to reduce conflicts with adjacent development.				
9. Extraction of instream sand gravel is not to exceed the average annual replenishment level (annual bedload), except when the bedload left from a previous flood is greater than the average annual replenishment or if the projects emphasize fishery enhancement, flood control or bank protection.				
10. Bank protection shall be permitted to: (1) Maintain necessary public or private roads, (2) Protect principal structures in danger from erosion, (3) Protect lands designated Agriculture-Exclusive from erosion.				
11. Evaluate significant water diversion projects which would reduce the replenishment rate of gravel in streams as to the impact they would have on local mineral supply in Humboldt County.				
12. The operation of borrow pits on Resource Production Lands (timber, agriculture) for non-commercial purposes is considered a principle use necessary to maintain the primary use of the land.				
13. The subdivision to create parcels which are for the				

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primary purpose of providing road and construction materials shall be consistent with this plan.				
<p>14. Oil and gas development shall be permitted consistent with the following:</p> <p>A. The development is performed safely and consistent with the geologic conditions of the well site.</p> <p>B. New or expanded facilities related to such development are consolidated, to the maximum extent feasible and legally permissible, unless consolidation will have adverse environmental consequences and will not significantly reduce the number of producing wells, support facilities, or sites required to produce the reservoir economically and with minimal environmental impacts.</p> <p>C. Such development will not cause or contribute to subsidence hazards unless it is determined that adequate measures will be undertaken to prevent damage from such subsidence.</p>				
Scenic Resources				
1. The Scenic Routes System shall be developed and implemented through the adoption of specific Scenic Route Plans.				
2. The Scenic Route System shall be consistent with adopted County and City General Plans, and shall be coordinated with local, state and federal agencies.				
3. When considering Scenic Routes where regulations may have to be applied to productive or potentially productive natural resources, primary consideration shall be given to sound resource harvesting and management.				
4. In both urban and rural areas, uses normally permitted by the General Plan and by zoning shall be allowed in Scenic Routes, except that scenic resources within officially designated Scenic Routes may be preserved and enhanced by supplementing normal zoning regulations with special height, area and setback regulations; by providing architectural and site design review; by regulating billboards, signs not relevant to the main use of the property, obtrusive signs, and automobile wrecking yards and junkyards. Design and location of signs may be regulated to prevent proliferation of unsightly signs along roadsides.				

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5. Specific development controls for any proposed Scenic Route shall be identified and adopted in the specific Scenic Route Plan for such route. The nature and type of controls may vary from route to route, and specific controls adopted for any one route or route segment do not necessarily apply to other routes within the scenic route system.				
6. In regard to proposed development projects, the intent of the specific Scenic Route Plan shall be to render projects as aesthetically pleasing or as compatible with surroundings as possible, but not generally to determine whether or not the project itself should occur.				
Hazards - General				
1. Regulate land use to ensure that development in potentially hazardous areas will not preclude preserving and promoting public safety. Potentially hazardous areas include, but are not limited to, steep slopes, unstable soils areas, on active earthquake fault lines, in extreme wildland fire areas, in airport flight path zones, and in flood plains and tsunami runup areas.				
2. Development within the coastal zone shall minimize risks to life and property in areas of high geologic, flood and fire hazard, assure stability and structural integrity and neither create nor contribute significantly to erosion, geologic instability or destruction of the site or surrounding areas or in any way require the construction of protective devices that would substantially alter natural landforms along bluffs and cliffs.				
3. Encourage the education of the community regarding the nature and extent of hazards.				
4. Continue to provide for the maintenance and upgrading of disaster response plans.				
Geologic Hazards				
1. Provide for the identification and evaluation of existing structural hazards.				
2. Provide for more detailed scientific analysis of natural hazards in the County.				
3. Provide for implementation and periodic review of the Seismic Safety and Public Safety Element.				
Flood Hazards				
1. The County shall participate in the Federal Flood				

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Insurance Program to regulate land uses in flood hazard areas in order to minimize loss of life and property, and in order to minimize public flood-related expense.				
2. Agricultural lands which are in flood plain areas shall be retained for use in agriculture.				
Fire Hazards				
1. Humboldt County should encourage the use of prescribed burning as a management tool for timber management purposes, livestock production, and enhancement of wildlife habitat.				
2. Use the appropriate sections of the California Department of Forestry "Fire Safe Guides" as guidelines for review of residential development in rural areas, to be applied consistent with other plan policies.				
3. Actively support and pursue the implementation recommendations of the Humboldt County Fire Chief's Association (see Fire Hazards Implementation, Section 5-2300.3).				
Noise				
1. Existing and potential incompatible noise levels in problem areas should be reduced through operational or source controls where the County has responsibility for such controls.				
2. Existing and potential incompatible noise levels in problem areas should be reduced through land use planning, subdivision review, building code enforcement, and other administrative means.				
3. The land use noise compatibility matrix (Figure 3-2) shall be utilized as the standard for General Planning and zoning purposes.				
4. Provide for periodic review and revision of the Noise Element.				
5. A local interagency program should be developed for the general public in the nature, extent, and solutions to noise problems in Humboldt County.				
6. Coordinate noise control activities with those of other responsible jurisdictions.				
7. Identify and evaluate potential noise problem areas on a continuing basis.				