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MEMO
HUMBOLDT COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
LAND USE DIVISION

TO: Planning Commission

FROM: Robert W. Bronkall, Associate Engineer 

DATE: July 26, 2007

RE: **RECOMMENDED REVISIONS TO THE
CONSERVATION AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENTS (CHAPTER 12),
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES (CHAPTER 14), AND
CULTURAL AND SCENIC RESOURCES (CHAPTER 15)
OF THE COUNTY GENERAL PLAN UPDATE**

The Department has reviewed the Draft Conservation and Open Space Elements (Chapter 12), Biological Resources (Chapter 14), and Cultural and Scenic Resources (Chapter 15) of the County General Plan. The Department recommends that the following be considered:

CHAPTER 12

Add GO-4: "Ensure the protection of open space, working landscapes, greenbelts, and parks while ensuring that roads, utilities, and other infrastructure are accommodated in a manner to ensure safe and orderly development of the County."

Add CO-P12: "Nothing in the general plan shall be construed to prevent the construction of roads, drainage facilities, utilities, and other infrastructure needed to ensure safe and orderly development of the County in areas including, but not limited to: working landscapes, open space areas, water courses & stream side management areas, wetland & wetland setback areas, green belts, parks, and recreation areas. Further, development of roads in these areas enhances access opportunities for the disabled who would otherwise not be able to access these areas.

Designs for such infrastructure must consider protecting and preserving the identified resources without compromising sound engineering design and/or orderly development of the County."

Add CO-P13: "Ensure that constraints (transfer of development rights, conservation easements, etc.) placed upon properties do not prohibit the construction of roads, drainage facilities, utilities, and other infrastructure needed to ensure safe and orderly development of the County."

Add CO-S1: "The Department of Public Works shall be lead agency for determining appropriate locations for roads, drainage facilities, utilities, and other infrastructure to ensure orderly development of the County."

CHAPTER 14

Add BR-G1: “Ensure the protection of biological resources while ensuring that roads, drainage facilities, utilities, and other infrastructure are accommodated in a manner to ensure safe and orderly development of the County.”

Add BR-P8: “Nothing in the general plan shall be construed to prevent the construction of roads, drainage facilities, utilities, and other infrastructure needed to ensure safe and orderly development of the County in areas including, but not limited to: water courses & stream side management areas, sensitive & critical habitats, and wetland & wetland setback areas, natural ponds, vernal pools, springs, marshes, and wet areas. Further, development of roads in these areas promotes access opportunities for the disabled who would otherwise not be able to access these areas.

Designs for such infrastructure must consider protecting and preserving the identified resources without compromising sound engineering design and/or the safe and orderly development of the County.”

Page 14-23, remove Items 6 through 9. These items are already included within the jurisdiction of the State of California Department of Fish and Game.

CHAPTER 15.1

ADD CU-P7: “Nothing in the general plan shall be construed to prevent the construction of roads, drainage facilities, utilities, and other infrastructure needed to ensure orderly development of the County in areas where historic and/or cultural resources exist. Designs for such infrastructure must consider protecting and preserving the identified resources without compromising sound engineering design, safety of the public, and/or orderly development of the County. When possible, improvements should be designed to be compatible with the context of the resource.”

CHAPTER 15.2

ADD SR-P11: “Nothing in the general plan shall be construed to prevent the construction of roads, parks, recreational facilities, drainage facilities, utilities, and other infrastructure needed to ensure safe and orderly development of the County in areas where scenic resources exist. Designs for such infrastructure must consider protecting and preserving the identified resources without compromising sound engineering design, safety of the public and/or orderly development of the County. When possible, improvements should be designed to be compatible with the context of the resource.”