



*"Jobs, Housing & Property Rights"*

May 21, 2012

Mrs. Virginia Bass, Chair  
Board of Supervisors  
Humboldt County  
825 Fifth Street  
Eureka, California 95501

Subject: General Plan update DEIR

Dear Chair Bass and Members of the Board:

The culture of incompetence and corruption in the County's Planning Department has once again come to the public's attention.

An obnoxious China-like policy in the General Plan Update (GPU) Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) came to light during the testimony by a member of the public at last Thursday evening's Planning Commission meeting:

DEIR, Appendix "U", Page 54 of Humboldt County Climate Action Plan

### **B. Family Planning**

**"The County should support the notion that every woman and every couple should have the resources and power to control their own reproductive lives. By ensuring that every child in the County is planned, the County will make significant progress toward solving unnecessary increases in local contributions to global warming impacts. The County Public Health Department should implement a program to address the potential of unplanned pregnancies which unnecessarily add to future population increases, which in turn add to further greenhouse gas emissions due to addition consumption."**

What kind of "program" did the Planners have in mind for the Health Department to establish....allow one child per family? For those who are attracted to the Chinese way-of-life, they should move there, not try to impose their policies in this country.

This so-called "notion" / policy inserted by Planners in the DEIR, is not included in the General Plan Draft reviewed by the Planning Commissioners. Staff does not have the authority to insert new policy in the DEIR when it is not referenced in the General Plan Update document. The purpose of the DEIR is to analyze impacts of policies in the GPU, not to establish policies.

The Planning Commissioners had not discussed this "policy/notion" during their deliberations over the past four (4) years and appeared unaware of its existence until brought to light by a member of the public during the public comment period at their May 17, 2012 meeting. Planning Commissioners acted blind-sighted and surprised when they learned of this section of the DEIR. Staff acted disoriented at this revelation.

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Today, we learned it was Senior Planner Michael Wheeler who inserted this “Family Planning” clause in the DEIR. Interim Planning Director Martha Spencer has now redacted the section from the DEIR on the County’s website.

Beware! The Planning Commission voted to forward to your Board, the GPU and DEIR, without taking the time to assure that there were no like-surprises inserted in the GPU or DEIR.

What about “transparency” and “earning the public’s trust”? Does anyone wonder why the private sector is so leery of the Planning Department’s activities?

Certainly not all Planning Department employees are incompetent or corrupt. However, regarding those who are guilty of this kind of performance, we urge you, the Supervisors, to take the appropriate action and terminate their employment. This is not an oversight, or mistake, it is inexcusable behavior and must not be tolerated. If staff tries to claim it was an oversight, don’t buy it. It is unethical, dishonest, and if incompetence – incompetence we, or you, cannot afford. As long as this kind of “mind-set” is prevalent in the Planning Department, we will have made no progress toward assuring the truth and the law prevails.

We look to you, as Supervisors who have chosen to have all department heads reporting directly to you, to take the appropriate corrective action involving Mr. Michael Wheeler, and all other County employees who were responsible for this occurring. Certain Department Managers may not have known, but should have known about this situation. Those employees also should be identified and corrective action taken.

Respectfully,

*Kay Backer*  
Kay Backer, representing  
Humboldt Economic and Land Plan

cc: Planning Commissioners  
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