

Board of Directors

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**McKinleyville Land Trust**  
**P.O. Box 2723**  
**McKinleyville, CA 95519**  
**707-839-LAND**



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May 7, 2009

Humboldt County Planning Commission  
c/o Martha Spencer, Senior Planner  
Humboldt County Community Development Services  
3015 H Street  
Eureka, CA 95501  
[mspencer@co.humboldt.ca.us](mailto:mspencer@co.humboldt.ca.us)

Dear Planning Commissioners,

As a conservation organization, the MLT is concerned about the future of Humboldt County's resources, particularly the working landscapes of forestry and agriculture, recreational resources for the public, and protection of water resources and wildlife habitat. As a land trust, our role is to aid willing landowners to protect the resources on their own lands. We also recognize the importance of the local government, including the Planning Department, in setting policies to protect our natural resources. In developing the county's General Plan, we would like to call for the following:

- Focus new residential development within urban limits and existing infrastructure boundaries and away from unincorporated areas of the county to prevent further loss of natural open space and working lands. This will help protect our working landscapes and protect wildlife and water resources. Encouraging urban infill has the advantage of concentrating residential development in areas that already have infrastructure services and proximity to work, shopping, and transit. This leaves working farms and forests available for production and also improves protection for wildlife.
- Increase protection for wildlife, including improving stream and riparian habitat. As the results of global warming affect our ecosystem, driving wildlife northward, higher in altitude, and sometimes closer to the coast, we will need wildlife corridors that allow species to protect themselves by moving.
- Work with land trusts and other conservation organizations to protect sensitive habitats. This is one of the most economical ways to protect resources. Other tools to use are Open Space Districts, which provide funding for land protection, and can be facilitated by partnering with conservation organizations. Another is developing a mechanism for transfer of development rights, which can protect strategically important landscapes.

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- Encourage and support the creation of community forests as a buffer between industrial forestlands and residential communities. This can keep forestlands in production, while providing recreational opportunities to the community, and it preserves wildlife habitat.

The prized rural lifestyle of Humboldt County can best be protected by concentrating growth in urban areas, leaving existing rural lands available for the forestry and agriculture uses.

Thank you for considering these issues.

Nancy Correll, Vice-President,  
The McKinleyville Land Trust