



**Humboldt County
Farm Bureau**



**Humboldt Del Norte
Cattlemen Association**

Commissioner Jeff Smith, Chair
Humboldt County Planning Commission
3015 H Street
Eureka, CA 95501-4484

April 27, 2009

Dear Chairman Smith and Commissioners,

Thank you for planning the open “town hall meeting” to discuss the Land Use portion of Part 2 of the General Plan Update (GPU). This format has proven to be a popular and effective means of allowing the public to ask questions and learn about the GPU in a much more interactive method than the typical line up and give 3-minutes of testimony. The forest, agriculture and rural lands policies have proven to be areas of great interest to citizens of Humboldt County.

At the April 16, 2009 meeting, staff member Tom Hofweber informed the public and the Planning Commission that the “town hall meeting” scheduled for April 30 would be held at a “large venue due to expected high level of public interest,” and that details would be released shortly. So we were a bit surprised to hear a week later at the April 23, 2009 meeting that a large venue would not be used for the town hall meeting, and instead it would be held at the usual location of the Board of Supervisor’s Chambers. We appreciate the opportunity to attend this type of meeting and want it to be the most productive experience that it can be for everyone involved, commissioners and public alike. An overflowing Supervisor’s Chamber limits the ability of the public to fully and substantively interact in the process.

The forest and agricultural lands represent the vast majority of the unincorporated area of Humboldt County. We believe that open, interactive, and well-advertised meetings should be conducted for the forest and agriculture portions of the General Plan Update. Our members typically live and work in outlying areas of Humboldt County and require advanced planning to attend an evening meeting in Eureka. Because a large turnout is expected by our members, an adequately sized venue would ensure participation by all present.

We would respectfully request that you relocate the meeting (and reschedule if necessary) so that all interested parties can fully participate. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

The Buckeye Conservancy ~ Humboldt County Farm Bureau
Humboldt Del Norte Cattlemen Association

CC:

Planning Commissioners; Bruce Emad; Ralph Faust; Mary Gearheart; Scott Kelly; Mel Krebs; Sef Murguia
Board of Supervisors; Jimmy Smith; Clif Clendenen; Jill Duffy; Mark Lovelace; Bonnie Neely
Staff: Kirk Girard; Tom Hofweber; Martha Spencer