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OCT 28 2009

HUMBOLDT COUNTY
PLANNING COMMISSION

Camp Grant Ranch
3345 Dyerville Loop Rd.
Redcrest, CA. 95569
October 26, 2009

Humboldt County Planning Commission
3025 "H" Street
Eureka, CA. 95501

Dear Commissioners,

It had been my hope that you would discuss the Merger Ordinance prior to work on the rural sections of the plan. (I refer to "rural" here in the broad sense as all lands outside the Community Planning Areas.) A discussion of the Merger Ordinance would lead directly to the issue of what divisions are occurring, where, what sizes and how many. This might have avoided the tangle you got into on the 22nd regarding RL-G1 of section 4.4 Rural Lands.

Discretionary subdivisions are relatively rare, however additional rural residential (broad sense) lots are being created and sold continuously in Humboldt County through the Certificate of Compliance and Lot Line Adjustment process. I believe it important that the Commission understand this process and the numbers involved before addressing the Goals and Policies of the Rural Lands, Agriculture and Timber sections of the plan. For the most part these new rural residential lots are being carved out of resource lands as has been the pattern for the last 30-40 years. I am doing some research and hope to provide you additional information at or before your November 12th meeting.

Under current laws (Subdivision Map Act and marijuana laws) the division and sale of rural (broad sense) lands through the Certificate of Compliance process is likely to continue because of artificially elevated market prices. Attached is a recent letter from the Farm Bureau to Congressman Thompson concerning the agricultural impact of these continuing divisions. The most your Commission may be able to do through the new plan is establish legal, orderly and enforceable regulation of these new rural residential (broad sense) lots and construction. For the most part, 40 and 80 acre upland parcels of former ranch lands are not viable agricultural units and, without marijuana, the Humboldt hills lifestyle is not a sustainable way of life. The Farm Bureau has asked that these lands be re-designated Rural Residential to acknowledge what is now the dominant use in some areas and to distinguish that use from legal commercial agriculture.

The Commission needs to consider that it is possible, even probable, that marijuana will be legalized during the term of the new plan and what social, economic and land use effects this may have in Humboldt County. Surely the street price of marijuana will drop dramatically and in my view, it is unlikely that Humboldt County will retain more than a boutique marijuana industry, similar to our small wineries as compared to other wine grape growing regions. Marijuana will be grown in the tobacco states or in California's inland valleys which have far greater horticultural and infrastructure advantages. Although, in my view legalization is long overdue, the social impacts, economic displacement and land use changes within Humboldt County could be severe.

I hope the Commission will consider these matters in your work on the Rural Lands, Agriculture and Timber sections of the plan.

Sincerely,



John LaBoyteaux

P.S. This letter is my own opinion and does NOT represent the Northcoast Growers Association or Combined Market Associations for whom I have spoken during public hearings.

Humboldt County Farm Bureau

5601 So. Broadway, Eureka, CA 95503
Serving Agriculture Since 1913

The Honorable Mike Thompson
U. S. Congress
Cannon Building #231
Washington DC

March 25, 2009

Dear Representative Thompson:

The Humboldt County Farm Bureau is taking this opportunity to communicate our serious concerns in regards to current Federal policy on application and enforcement of laws related to the production and distribution of marijuana.

We feel an inappropriate tolerance of this behavior is having serious detrimental effects of both a short term and long term nature on our communities. These impacts range from severe environmental damage to our water ways to significant increases in criminal behaviors related to the production and distribution of significant quantities. Escalation of this criminal behavior has resulted in an alarming increase in violent crime with recent home invasion robberies resulting in murders within our residential communities.

The Farm Bureau feels there are significant effects on agricultural land sales with industrial growing operations often purchasing large land holdings with the specific intent of transforming the land use to marijuana production. It is clearly the case that these operations have threatened the public's right and ability to continue to produce food and fiber for our citizens.

The local government policies translate to a complete tolerance of this behavior, with significant growing and distribution facilities developing literally blocks from police stations.

We feel that federal intervention is the only method available to resist and reverse this accelerating decline in our communities. We are asking for your direct support in a coordinated federal effort to enforce existing laws and return control of our communities to our citizens.

From our view point, the only way we will control this issue will be to introduce legislation for the legalization of marijuana and create the tax program to help increase revenue for the Federal Government. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Jay Russ
President

Cc: Humboldt County Board of Supervisors
Trinity County Farm Bureau
Mendocino County Farm Bureau

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