



Planning Commissioner Denver Nelson
3014 H Street
Eureka, CA. 95501

May 18, 2010

Dear Commissioner Nelson,

Since November of 2008 I have been representing the North Coast Growers Association, the Fortuna Market Association and the Southern Humboldt Market Association during the general plan update hearings before the planning commission. Enclosed is our most recent (March 17, 2010) letter to the commission as well as our initial public testimony (April 30, 2009) at the beginning of Resource Lands discussion. There have been several additional letters along the way.

In context, our March letter followed several meetings during which the commission had progressively weakened Option B, in draft, as applied to Agriculture Exclusive (AE) lands. The combined growers associations felt we had to shift our support to Option A. During the meeting on March 18th the commission removed the weakened language from AG-S1 leaving only the 60 acre minimum requirement.

The vote that evening on AG-S1 was 3-2-1, with three commissioners retaining the 60 acre minimum, two commissioners saying they would like some additional language such as a clustering option and one commissioner voting for the weakened draft. We expect that this item will come back for additional discussion before the Resource Lands section passes out of the planning commission or before the Board of Supervisors.

Thank you for the opportunity to introduce ourselves and thank you for your support of agriculture in Humboldt County.

Sincerely,

John LaBoyteaux

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PLANNING DIVISION