



Humboldt County Planning Commission
3015 H Street
Eureka, CA. 95501

June 14, 2010

RE: Land Use Designations

Dear Commissioners,

We suggest revised language for the Agriculture Exclusive (AE) designation. The phrase "lands that can be irrigated" in the draft definition is ambiguous and not relevant to much of Humboldt County agriculture. Does it mean that water may be available or that there is an installed irrigation system? The adjacent lands provision found in the current plan is also missing. And to further complicate the matter, the NRCS retains a central California definition of prime soils which includes only irrigated lands.

The (AE) definition should continue to reference the Public Resource Code definition of prime soils, (PRC 51201(c) 1-5) which is included at section 2722 of the current plan.

(REVISED AGRICULTURE EXCLUSIVE DEFINITION)

This plan designation applies to bottom land farms and prime agricultural soils as defined by PRC 51201(c) 1-5. It is also used in upland areas to retain agricultural character. It includes additional lands adjacent to prime agricultural soils which presently or historically have been necessary to provide for economically viable agricultural areas. It may include farmlands of local importance as determined by the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors. Typical uses include dairy, pasture, row crops, field crops, orchards, specialty agriculture and horticulture. Residential subdivision is not supported. Residential uses must support agricultural operation. Density range is 20-60 acres/unit.



(END REVISED DEFINITION)

Regarding other designations, we are concerned that the Conservation Flood Plain (CF) and Conservation Flood Plain Recreation (CFR) designations may conflict with (AE) because most prime agricultural lands in Humboldt County are found in the flood plain.

We support the inclusion of general agriculture as an allowable use within the Rural Residential designation.

Thank you for your support of agriculture in Humboldt County.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

Paul Giuntoli, President
Board of Directors
North Coast Growers' Association



Everett King
Manager
Southern Humboldt Farmers' Market Association



Holly Kreb
Manager
Fortuna Farmers' Market



Cc: Board of Supervisors

