

RCUD
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To:
Humboldt Co. Planning Department
Humboldt Co. Planning Commission

Public Input to the Telecommunications element of the General Plan Update

This is a new element that is changing very rapidly. I come from one of the “white” regions of Rural Humboldt Co and access to telecommunications is expensive and often impossible. This lead to a large section of this county being cut out of the General Plan Update process. By elimination the C.A.C.s from the planning process ,as called for in the 1500 section of the current general plan , leads to on little to no input from these people.

The new plan calls for elimination of almost all the requirements for public participation and replaces it with E-government (T-p4 and T-IM10).E -government has helped people get information in many ways and is certainly a valuable information source particularly on the land use elements. The maps are great. The county, however has very antiquated systems (old servers)and is finding it hard to make their sites user -friendly much less updated in a timely fashion (or even running half the time).

It is with these thoughts in mind that I make the following recommendations.

T-G1- Open access should include other forms of communications such as public access TV other forms of media (DVD's , library information and printed copies) . The rural areas are not hooked up yet.

T-G2- The new telecommunication does not have to run through existing urban areas . This is an old paradigm.

T-G3- New Construction means more stupid building codes for technology that is already obsolete

T-G4- This puts a permit burden on small microwave towers to meet restrictions that should apply to large towers built in urban areas.A streamline process should apply to remote locations.

T-P1- Infrastructure should include some new servers for the county government as well as people to make the web sites more user friendly.

T-P13- Cable franchise must include Net Neutrality as a requirement as well as public access channels.

T- P15- Remote Access for input to public meetings should be provided for rural people who should not be made to drive to Eureka in the winter storms . This could be done by SKYPEing from individual computers and requires no rural facilities and no additional equipment for the county.

T-S1- Siting of towers in urban areas should carefully avoid microwaving people and small rural towers (low power) should be given wavers(fast tracked).

Thank you for your consideration;
Tom Grover