



527 W. Wabash Avenue • Eureka, CA 95501

February 23, 2011

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Mary Gearheart, Chair  
H. C. Planning Commission  
Community Development Services Department  
3015 H Street  
Eureka, CA 95501

Re: General Plan Process

Dear Chair Gearheart and Commissioners,

At the February 17, 2011 Planning Commission's workshop, there was much discussion on how to increase the pace of the General Plan update process. The Humboldt Association of Realtors® understands Chair Gearheart's interest in this and acknowledges that considerable time has been spent on the update. However, "picking up the pace" cannot be attempted at the expense of editing public comment.

At the meeting, planner Martha Spencer, in an effort to speed up the process, stated staff would review General Plan "voting charts" submitted by the public and pick from them what staff considered "key policies". This is editing public input. It is unprofessional and egregiously inappropriate. We oppose any attempt by staff to truncate written, public input. One of the Association's constant concerns during this process has been filtering, by planning staff, of information to the Commission. Ms. Spencer's proposal is a flagrant example of this.

We request that you direct staff to forward to the Planning Commission the public's "voting charts", in their entirety, without editing or filtering.

Thank you,

  
Bob Higgons  
Government Relations Coordinator

cc: Kirk Girard, Director  
Tom Hofweber, Supervising Planner  
Martha Spencer, Supervising Planner

