



527 W. Wabash Avenue • Eureka, CA 95501

Round
03/24/11

March 24, 2011

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Mary Gearheart, Chair
Humboldt County Planning Commission
Community Development Services Department
3015 H Street
Eureka, California 95501

Re: General Plan update/Section 10.4/Mineral Recourses

Dear Chair Gearheart and Commissioners:

Sand, gravel and rock, being necessary to construction and development, are critical components for the continued economic well-being of the County. We agree with staff language which states in the Open Space narrative that “sand, gravel, and rock mining are essential to road construction, road maintenance, concrete, stream bank protection, erosion control, and engineered fill and drainage systems. Mine closures raise costs and negatively impact development and maintenance projects within the county.” These resources are critical to the residential construction market. Their availability and cost impact the price of housing.

In order to insure the continued production of essential mineral resources, all mining operations and haul routes need protection from incompatible land uses. We agree with staff that “the mineral resources policies in the current Framework General Plan have guided these activities over the past twenty years and are still appropriate today” (pg. 16-12, Staff Analysis and Alternatives, originally posted Feb. 2, 2007).

There are local gravel companies active in the county. These companies are experts in the field and the Association defers to their recommendations as concerns this chapter.

Please note the Association is not submitting a “voting chart” on this chapter and that this letter represents the sum of our remarks on Mineral Resources. The Association appreciates the Commission’s review and consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

Victoria Copeland, Co-chair
General Plan Subcommittee

Debbie Provolt, Co-chair
General Plan Subcommittee

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

