



Rec'd
03/24/11

527 W. Wabash Avenue • Eureka, CA 95501

March 24, 2011

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

Re: General Plan update/Section 10.3/Biological Resources

Dear Chair Gearheart and Commissioners:

There is no question that protection of natural resources is important and that the General Plan update plays a critical role in accomplishing this goal. Equally as important is the achievement of a reasonable balance between resource protection and meeting the housing and employment needs of the county's population. We suggest the Commission utilize such a balanced approach as it reviews these resource issues.

The Association supports some of the draft language as presented. However, there are many sections which do not provide enough information in order to make informed comment. For this reason, we would prefer to not take any position on some of the proposed language. In other cases, there is language we suggest can be revised as noted in the "voting chart".

Much of this chapter is redundant with ordinances already existing in the County. For example, the County Grading Ordinance already controls what can and cannot be done in Streamside Management Areas. There are also stringent state Water Quality Control Board and federal regulations addressing issues surrounding wetland areas. There are multiple agencies such as:

- US Forest Service
- National Marine Fisheries Service
- US Fish and Wildlife
- US Army Corps of Engineers
- US Bureau of Land Management
- California Dept. of Fish and Game
- California Department of Forestry
- California Coastal Commission

among others, all of which already regulate natural resources.

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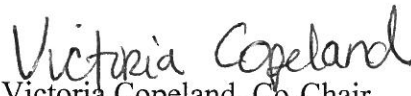


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Additionally there is the California Environmental Quality Act which provides protection of biological resources. We suggest there is enough existing regulation protecting resource areas without the County adding more through the General Plan update.

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

Attachment

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