

June 25, 2012

Humboldt County Board of Supervisors  
825 Fifth Street, Room 111  
Eureka, CA 95501

**Re: General Plan Update – Shortlist for Board Deliberation**

Dear Planning Commissioners,

Healthy Humboldt is a broad coalition of individuals and organizations that has been involved through the many years of the General Plan Update process. For the last three years we have worked with over 20 organizations, as part of several working groups, to put forward recommendations to the County Planning Commission towards land use policy that promotes sustainable rural and urban development, protects resource lands, and works to restore damaged watersheds. Some of these recommendations were met with much controversy and rejected outright, some supported in part or in whole, while others were ignored entirely.

The Planning Commission's Approved Draft GPU represents a distillation of thousands of comments from across the spectrum of residents, businesspeople, landowners, state agencies, and a wide variety of interest groups. The result is consensus on many non-controversial items and compromise on many others, with just a handful of split votes on the more contested issues.

There is currently a lobby from certain groups to revisit many of the items that received unanimous support from a diverse Planning Commission. In particular, the Humboldt Association of Realtors is requesting that over 150 additional policies be added to the "short list" for further discussion. The majority of these policies represented a consensus on the Planning Commission, with much popular support. It should be noted that many of these policies were actually the moderate "Alternative B" policies.

The longer the update goes on, the longer we put off addressing many critical issues that affect the welfare of all residents in the county. The longer the Update process is drawn out, the more the Counties' limited financial resources are depleted.

Planning Commissioners, past and present, have dedicated years of service to weigh public input and put forth the best plan to represent the County as a whole. Many of the unanimous recommendations from the Planning Commission will promote restoration of our rivers and will encourage better development practices, while providing a clear path for appropriate development that is consistent with state and federal regulations.

