



July 14, 2012

Mrs. Virginia Bass, Chair  
Board of Supervisors  
Humboldt County  
825 Fifth Street  
Eureka, California 95501

Subject: July 16, 2012 Supervisors Meeting: GPU

Dear Chair Bass and Members of the Board:

We respect your desire to move forward with the review and approval of the General Plan update in an efficient and expeditious manner.

In an Economic Development Forum HELP held during April of this year, several industry representatives expressed their serious concerns about the viability of their industries due to the extreme amount of regulations currently imposed on their businesses. A few examples include:

Fishing Aaron Newman, Humboldt Fishing Industry Marketing Association  
**“We’re pigeonholed by all of these rules and regulations -- by all the bureaucracy and it’s difficult to combat that. It’s hard to get through the layers to actually get something accomplished.”**

Dairy John Vevoda, Dairy owner and Humboldt County Farm Bureau President  
**“In 1910 there were 815 dairies in Humboldt County. Today there are 62. The State sets the price for conventional dairy. Our challenges are land availability and regulations.”**

Beef Lee Mora, Humboldt Grass Fed Beef & Humboldt Auction Yard  
**“The regulations we deal with are the same as dairy. There is one tannery left in the United States. They’ve been regulated out of business – both in labor and environmental – mostly in environmental.”**

Timber Gary Rynearson, Green Diamond Resource Co.  
**“We have a lot more regulations. We can’t afford to have spiraling regulation costs and continue to do business. We just can’t do it. Any small landowner, not only small, also large landowners have not been able to harvest their timber because they can’t make positive cash flow. What costs us \$8/1,000 in the state of Washington, costs us \$65 in California. We’ve created a morass of regulations that isn’t helpful to anybody.”**

Marijuana Jennifer Budwig, Redwood Capital Bank  
**“The one industry that has continued to thrive and grow, is the one that’s not regulated.”**

Area Development Magazine Survey  
November 2011 survey of 260 Corporate Real Estate decision-makers say:  
**There is a need to address plans for relocation *in order to alleviate onerous tax and regulatory burdens.***

Mrs. Virginia Bass, Chair  
Board of Supervisors  
July 14, 2012, cont'd

The GPU in front of you has a massive amount of new regulations – regulations which will negatively impact the economic well-being of the County, and kill more jobs.

We urge you to discard the “Short List” review of the draft GPU, and either: (1) establish CACs so that the public’s input is better represented, or , (2) examine the GPU in its entirety and limit the number of new regulations to those required by State and Federal laws.

We appreciate all you are doing to assure the GPU will meet the needs of current and future Humboldt citizens. Our sincere “Thank you”.

Respectfully,

*Kay Backer*  
Kay Backer, representing  
Humboldt Economic & Land Plan

cc: Planning Commissioners  
Phillip Smith-Hanes, County Administration Officer  
Wendy Chaitin, County Counsel  
Carolyn Ruth, Assistant County Counsel  
Martha Spencer, Interim Planning Director  
Tom Hofweber, Supervising Planner  
John Miller, Senior Planner  
Michael Richardson, Senior Planner  
Kathy Hayes, Clerk of the Board  
Norma Lorenzo, Planning Commission Clerk

helpcountybass18