



TIMBER HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

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October 23, 2012

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

**RE: General Plan Update; "Commercial Recreation" designation for
*Timber Heritage Museum Site; Samoa, CA***

Honorable Supervisors:

The Timber Heritage Association (THA) has been developing a Timber Heritage Museum and Tourist Train at the historic Samoa Shop Complex, just behind and below Hammond's Samoa Cookhouse. For this on-going project to be consistent with the General Plan, the site must be designated for "Commercial Recreation." We request your Board's consideration of THA's project in your adoption of an updated General Plan for Humboldt County that would designate our Samoa site to "Commercial Recreation" (CR).

THA is a non-profit 503-C corporation whose goal is to create awareness and appreciation for the timber, logging, and railroad heritage of Humboldt County. Our mission is to create a timber heritage museum that would include an operating steam-powered tourist train around Humboldt Bay to convey to both visitors and residents the important role timber and rail has played in the settlement of California's North Coast.

Over the last thirty years THA has amassed numerous rail and timber related artifacts. The collection represents a time period ranging from the 1870s through the 1960s, with the majority of the collection dating from the last two decades of the nineteenth century and the first half of the twentieth century.

THA has a lease on the Samoa shop complex of the former Hammond Lumber Company in Samoa, adjacent to the Samoa Cookhouse, which is an

icon for tourists and has been in operation for over 100 years. Within this shop complex is an 1890's roundhouse that is one of the last four roundhouses remaining in the Western United States that will house the historic THA collection.

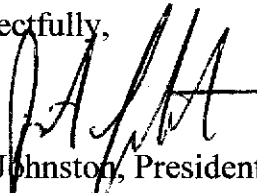
With the General Plan change of the site's designation to CR, THA can become the first Timber Heritage Museum on the West Coast. This would allow our collection of timber history artifacts to be displayed in an authentic setting such as the historic Hammond Roundhouse. From this site, the Association would also run an excursion train around Humboldt Bay, using actual historic railroad equipment.

A CBDG feasibility study sponsored by the City of Eureka has shown that a THA Tourist Train would be feasible and would be of substantial economic benefit to Humboldt County. Museums are part of the amenity package visitors and locals expect to find. Prosperity! The North Coast Strategy for Economic Development designates tourism as one of Humboldt County's base industries. The Convention and Visitors Bureau has identified the need for destination marketing activities to encourage visitors to "stay an extra day." The development of the Museum would encourage tourists to come to the area and to stay longer.

A General Plan designation of "Commercial Recreation" will permit THA to pursue its vision. It is our understanding that General Plan Update Alternatives "A" and "B" propose designation of the site as "Commercial Recreation." Hence, we would support the adoption of either Alternative. In the event the Board of Supervisors prefers another Alternative, we ask that it be modified to designate the site for "Commercial Recreation."

Thank you for consideration of our request.

Respectfully,



Pete Johnston, President
Timber Heritage Association
CA non-profit C0815416, Fed Tax ID #94-2388203