

June 23, 2012

Humboldt County Board of Supervisors
Humboldt County Courthouse
Eureka, CA 95501

Re: June 25, 2012 Board GPU Key issues "short list" review

Attachments: A. Workgroup List of GPU issue subject areas.
B. Workgroup List of Specific items at issue

Dear Chairman and Members of the Board

We appreciate the opportunity to provide the enclosed list of items for consideration as additions to the "short list" review of the March 19, 2012 GPU Draft Part One, in order that it may be a better document to inform, educate and encourage broad based public participation.

Our review has freshened our continued concern for clarifying, improving, and correcting a number items before Part One is finalized.

We have compared the contents of GPU Part 1 to the FMWK Plan Chapter One for relative ease of understanding and coherency of the formatting.

Our review was approached from both from a general public point of view, the overall clarity and readability of the text, the ease of reading and utility of using the document as a reference to the subject information.

List A is our shortlist to specific items
List B is our detailed shortlist with specific concerns and requests.

We are prepared to answer any questions which you may have for us regarding the contents of our submission for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Members of the Public Participation Work Group (PPWG)

Bonnie Blackberry,
Civil Liberties Monitoring Project (CLMP)

Dan Taranto,
Citizens Participation Advisory Committee 1981-1982

****PPWG LIST A KEY ISSUES Short List
for June 25, 2012 Board of Supervisors GPU meeting**

- #1. 1.2 Purposes of a General Plan >add text**
- #2. 1.7 Population >clarification, update data**
- #3. Public Guide narrative >add public participation section**
- #4. 2.5 Key Terms (or Glossary?) > definitions**
- #5. 3.3 Background >add text and reference indexing**
- #6. GP-Gx1 Accessible General Plan > edit text**
- #7. GP-10 Public Participation >adding text**
- #8. GP-P11 Accessibility >text clarification**
- #9. GP-S4 Public Education > add 2 items to list**
- #10. GP-IM5 Meaningful Participation >text additions and edits**
- #11. NEW GP-IM5x1 Participation Evaluations >new addition**
- #12. GP IM16 Citizens Handbook > add to distribution list**

****PPWG LIST B KEY ISSUES Detailed Short List**

for June 25, 2012 Board of Supervisors GPU meeting

#1. (pg 1-1) 1.2 Purposes of a General Plan

>>> add equal: "Provide citizens with equal opportunities to participate in the planning and decision making processes of their communities.":

#2 (pg1-6) 1.7 Population information is inadequate: "Humboldt County's major population centers include the cities of Eureka, Arcata, McKinleyville, and Fortuna", with no information on distribution of population in smaller cities and unincorporated towns and rural lands.

a.(pg1-7) Figure 1-2 Humboldt County Population and Average Annual Growth Rate, shows overall population growth.

>>> Since location of growth is a GPU major issue more specific information is need to deferential growth rates in urban verses rural area

>>> Expand **Fig. 1-2 Population Growth Graph** to include separate lines contrasting urban and rural population growth areas of the county.

b. (pg 4-4) Figure 4.1 Population Distribution Map is compiled from the 2000 census data. The most recent census of 2010 should be used, not the outdated 12 year old 2000 census. (page 1-2 states that the update "relies on the latest data (e.g. population changes, growth projections") Consistency and accuracy require using latest data.

>>> Update **Fig. 4.1 Population Distribution Map** with 2010 census data.

#3 (pg2.-1) Chapter 2: Public Guide The Public Guide guides the public only through the GPU Plan Organization, however it does not provide guidance to Public Participation.

An additional **Section 2.8: Public Guide to Public Participation** is needed.

>>> **a.** Consolidating all public participation related narratives, background, principles, findings, goals, policies, standards, implementations, etc., everything consolidated into one coherent section as a part of the GPU Public Guide.

>>> **b.** Incorporate the essence of the Citizens Handbook into Chapter Two to provide guidance to the public on how to use the Citizen's Handbook *and* utilize the provisions of the restored Section 1500.

#4. (pg2-3) 2.5 Key Terms and /or Appendix B Glossary and Definitions

A lot of terms being used have unclear or multiple meanings, which creates ambiguity and misunderstanding. More clarity is needed with clear definitions as they apply to the GPU.

>>>Definitions need to be provided for the following terms;

Citizen Advisory Committee

Citizens Handbook

Adhoc Committee

Working Group

Stake Holder Group

Interest Group

The General Public

Foundational Aspects

Resource lands

Low Density

New Development

Pg 1. (PPWG 6-25-12)

#5. (pg3-1) 3.3 Background.

a. This section has thirteen significant subsections which need numbering for ease of reference notation and indexing in the Table of Contents.

>>> add to GPU document the number and index subsections in the Table of Contents

b. (Pg 3-3) **Public Participation** narrative; "...The following processes and educational tools should be considered for use by County staff and the decision makers in planning processes:"

>>>: Add following to process and tools items; interactive live remote capability for video and audio conferencing.

#6 (pg3-8) GP-Gx1. Accessible General Plan. "A comprehensive General Plan written in understandable language and format which is readily accessible to the public and encourages citizen participation throughout the planning process in the geographical area under consideration, whenever possible."

>>> add and format and delete whenever possible.

#7 (pg 3-11) GP-10 Public Participation

a. **Item B. Citizen Committees**

>>> include citizen committees with the citizen organizations and working groups

b. **Item D. "Public Notification of Planning Commission Meetings.**

"The Commission shall provide reasonable advance notification of meetings adequate to insure" time for the public to access and review relevant documentation in order to maximize informed participation consistent with the goals of this Plan.

>>>Add new underlined text.

c. >>>add new **Item I. Educate the Public** by supporting extending public access to televised and audio of Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors meetings on cable, satellite, internet, and radio. This would allow for the public throughout the county to readily follow the official developments more closely without having to drive to Eureka.

#8. (Pg 3-11) GP-P11 Accessibility: "remote interactive tools" needs clarification

>>> to include for example Skype, video conferencing and audio teleconferencing.

#9. (pg 3-13) GP-S4 Public Education, include following on the GP-S4 list:

>>> a. Interactive live remote public participation via live video and audio conferencing

>>> b. Public remote access to Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors meetings via Video and Audio Archiving

#10. (Pg 3-15) GP-IM5. Meaningful Participation." Comprehensively review and update the participation processes required by County Code to provide adequate time, information, and means of input to ensure early and meaningful community involvement in planning projects as required by state law." Whenever possible public input sessions for county-initiated legislative changes should be formatted in such a way as to encourage meaningful participation and be held in geographic areas under consideration. Provide interactive live remote" for example Skype, video and audio conferencing whenever possible."

2. (PPWG 6-25-12)

>>> a. add underlined text and delete strike thru. text

>>> b. Include specific title/ID# for County Code and State Law referenced.

#11. (Pg 3-15) GP-IM5. Meaningful Participation:

>>> add new item: **GP-IM5.x1 Feedback/Evaluations of Citizen Participation Process** Establish a process to evaluate the effectiveness of any ongoing Citizen Participation Programs .. Evaluations are essential to the success of meaningful plans and policies, as well as gaining the support of the community.

#12. (pg 3-16) GP-IM16 Citizens Handbook. " A Citizens Handbook will be updated and made available to the public, in all County library branches and at public planning meetings, at the Community Development Services front counter and to members of the Board of Supervisors, Planning Commission, Planning Advisory Committees and Community Advisory Committees, especially when beginning their services on these committees."

>>>add underlined text

July 13, 2012

Humboldt County Board of Supervisors
Humboldt County Courthouse
Eureka, CA 95501

Re: July 16, 2012 GPU Key Issues Additional Input

With regard to Table 1. of the June 28 Staff Report on Key Issues, the PPWG appreciate the Priority 2 designations for our short list items.

With regard to those item notes on "...adding clarifying text to this section may be appropriate.", we would prefer to work collaboratively with staff on the clarification of those items the Board of Supervisors is supportive of, but may be too unwieldy to easily handle in Board session.

#1 Guiding Principles:

The Guiding Principles contained in Chapter one of the General Plan update. are in effect major plan policies, as indicated in the Framework Plan and revealed by staff at the December 15, 2011 Planning Commission "workshop" for Chapters One , Two and Three.

The Guiding Principle polices should of, but did not receive the same treatment as the other policies. They were not included in Key Issues and Alternative Charts for proper review by the Planning Commission and the public. Instead these major plan policies (apparently devised 11 years ago) were discretely placed in Chapter One, under a title "Guiding Principles" where there had been no plan for review.

The Guiding Principles need proper review accorded to other plan policies, which has NOT happened.

GPU 1.4 Guiding Principles. (page 1-3) There is a perceptible inconsistency with regard to the description and definitions of the Guiding Principles.

The text states "Guiding Principles ... provide a statement of community values and overall objectives of the General Plan." That "a principle is an assumption, fundamental rule, or doctrine ..." Then, "Principles are based upon community values, planning doctrine, current technology, and the general plan's objectives". Finally, "*The Guiding Principles are the direct result of the public process involved in developing this GP*" (Objectivity requires that the undefined "public process involved" requires description and quantification to establish the veracity of the reference, both of which are not to be found anywhere in the text). Further, this final assertion is questionable inasmuch as these principles were developed 11 years ago at which time the review process that was being used was closed to the general public participation and failed to consider public participation as a community value worthy of mentioning, particularly in the face of the unmentioned applicability of multiple unequivocal provisions of Section 1500 FMWK Plan.

The failure to include public participation in the Principles until the last minute belies the fact that the general public was not truly involved in the development of these principles until 6 months ago at which time the omission was realized and 3 additional principles (1, 11, & 12) were adopted too late to be fully realized.

The Principles are in fact major plan policies and objectives that have been shielded from the alternatives chart process applied to all other plan goals, policies, standards and implementations.

Therefore, the statement that the Guiding Principles are the direct result of the public process cannot be accurate. It appears that community values have taken a back seat to unidentified and undefined "assumptions" and "planning doctrine" which have not been exposed to public scrutiny.

Recommend: Include a definition of the meaning of the terms assumptions; and planning doctrine" **Define and list them.**

Proposed additional Guiding Principle:

Encourage experimentation with innovative technologies and minimum impact low consumption alternative lifestyles that minimize consumption of resources and reduce the overall carbon footprint.

#2 The following was compiled with the help of Connie Stewart in effort to help consolidate and add clarifying text in proper locations regarding PPWG 7-16-12 short list items #5, #7-c, #8, #9-a, #10,

Under **Public Participation** stating at the very end on 3.3 we would like you to consider the follow changes:

In addition it important for county to recognize the need for using technology to allow inactive public participation involvement to our citizen who live in outlying areas or may have difficulties attending meetings.

The follow interactive tools should be considered for use by county staff and decision makers to allow equal participation throughout the region regardless of a citizens' ability to attend meeting in person:

Teleconferencing
Webinars
Audio meetings

Technology to allow for interactive meetings is advancing and will greatly improve during the life of this general plan. The county should make every effort to use technology to improve public participation in the planning process.

Please also consider the following changes under **Goals and Policies** starting on page 3-8:*

GP-G3. Public Participation. An open, inclusive, interactive and responsive process for public participation in County land use decision making and greater understanding of the Plan

Gp-Gx1. Accessible General Plan. A comprehensive General Plan written in understandable language and format which is readily accessible to the public and encourages citizen participation throughout the planning process in the geographic area under consideration,

I. Interactive Real Time Technology. The County shall encourage the use of technology to allow real-time remote interactive public participation in the planning process.

#3 Please also consider the following changes under **Implementation Measures** starting on 3-15.*

GP-IM5 Meaningful Public Participation. Comprehensively review and update the participation required by the County Code to provide adequate time, information, and means of input to ensure early and meaningful community involvement in planning projects as required by state law. ~~Whenever possible,~~ public input sessions for county-initiated legislative changes should be formatted in such a way as to encourage meaningful participation and be held in the geographical areas under consideration. Provide interactive live remote, ~~whenever possible,~~

New items: AMENDMENTS (pg 3-2) Clarification and consistency needed.

#19 Comment: Last sentence of the second paragraph needs clarification: "As a "constitution" for future development, some aspects should be considered foundational and not subject to interim change".

Recommend: Include a definition of the meaning of the term "foundational aspects". **Define and list them.**

#20 Comment: Last paragraph page 3-2: "...the Plan can only be amended when it benefits the entire county". Clarification is needed for the benefit of the general public as to who and how is a finding of "benefit to the entire county" verified?

Recommend: Clarification is needed in the text narrative to clarify and more fully explain how a determination of **benefit to the entire county** is made? Such an extraordinary standard appears more unachievable than the standard of "**community consensus**" set by the Framework Plan.

We are prepared to answer any questions which you may have for us regarding the contents of our submission for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Members of the Public Participation Work Group (PPWG)

Bonnie Blackberry,
Civil Liberties Monitoring Project (CLMP)

Dan Taranto,
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