
From: Ana Lora Garrard [mailto:changemail.org]
Sent: Friday, September 06, 2013 11:07 AM
To: Richardson, Michael
Subject: I just signed "Take Action on Humboldt's Guiding Principles"

Dear Michael Richardson, Senior Planner,

I just signed Northcoast Environmental Center's petition "[Take Action on Humboldt's Guiding Principles](#)" on Change.org.

Thank you for reconvening the discussion on the Guiding Principles of Humboldt County's General Plan Update. The original Guiding Principles were developed following over 120 meetings, with input from over 2,500 individuals. The significant alteration, and outright removal, of key principles reflects poorly on a process that should, by its nature, be inclusive of the public. While we are not necessarily opposed to some changes made by this Board at your June 3 meeting, we firmly disagree with the action to remove significant components of the original principles, particularly language that speaks to the importance of protecting Humboldt County's vital forests, farms, and watersheds. Since the June 3 hearing, numerous individuals from throughout the County have worked to weave together the original Guiding Principles with the Board's recently revised ones. We think that the melding of the two documents more accurately reflects the needs and desires of our diverse community. We request that your Board reconsider the previous vote on the Guiding Principles, and incorporate changes necessary to reflect the shared values that unite the diverse views within Humboldt County. We offer our support for the following Guiding Principles: Guiding Principles Revised – A Balanced Blend

1. Ensure that public policy is reflective of the needs of the people of Humboldt County as expressed by the people through an accessible public process.
2. Preserve and enhance the diverse character of Humboldt County and the quality of life it offers.
3. Promote and facilitate the creation of affordable housing opportunities to meet current and future demands for all income levels.
4. Promote efficient use of roads, water, and sewer services by prioritizing development in areas with existing infrastructure over development involving low-density residential conversion of resource lands and open space.
5. Support home construction methods and alternative wastewater systems that are scientifically proven to minimize threats to human health and safety while reducing energy and water usage.
6. Support sustainable economic development and work to retain and create living wage job opportunities.
7. Protect agricultural land and timberland, along with the economic and ecosystem values they represent, now and for future generations using measures such as increased incentives and restrictions to minimize resource land subdivisions and patent parcel development.
8. Encourage and support sustainable agriculture, timber and compatible uses on resource lands.
9. Protect natural resources; especially open space, water resources, water quality, scenic beauty, and fisheries habitat.
10. Support individual rights to live in urban, suburban, rural or remote areas of the county and promote low-impact development practices that protect natural resources in cooperation with state and federal agencies.
11. Cooperate with and support service providers' efforts to supply efficient water and sewer services and infrastructure to their customers, and include actionable plans for infrastructure financing and construction.
12. Adhere to practical strategies that can be implemented utilizing constructive cooperation and common sense.
13. Provide a clear statement of land use values and policies to provide clarity in the County's permit processing system and simplify review of projects that are consistent with the General Plan.
14. Maximize the opportunities to educate the public about the planning process, in order to have meaningful participation in the development and maintenance of the Plan.
15. Support a broad public participation program at all levels of the decision making process; including study, workshops, hearings, and plan revisions.

Sincerely,
Ana Lora Garrard Arcata, California

There are now 50 signatures on this petition. Read reasons why people are signing, and respond to Northcoast Environmental Center by clicking here:

<http://www.change.org/petitions/take-action-on-humboldt-s-guiding-principles/responses/new?response=361a0d1133f8>

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