

Planning Commission
Humboldt County

February 20, 2014

Dear Commission Members,

As a taxpayer, I am very concerned that you have recently expanded the scope of the Board of Supervisors' request for you to review the Open Space, Biological Resources, and other elements of the General Plan. We all know that the process of producing a General Plan has been in the works now for 12 years, has had widely circulated public comment opportunities and has cost County taxpayers to date \$2.5 million.

I am writing to urge you to consider not only the cost to date of \$2.5 million that is being born by taxpayers in a slumped economy but also the costs that these extra meetings are costing the County. Just the cost of the Planning Commissioner per diem and the rental of the Board of Supervisor chambers comes to roughly \$800 per meeting. On top of that county staff costs average around another \$800-900 per meeting. That's a total of \$1800 per meeting of which because of the expanded scope of this review will total at least 9 meetings. That's a total of \$16,200 and doesn't take into account the staff time of extra typing, web management, etc.

Who are you serving by forcing Humboldt County taxpayers to foot this ever spiraling cost?

I have a suggestion that will save time and hence money. For those policies that were passed either unanimously or by a large margin of majority of the prior planning commission, please do not spend time (hence money) opening these to yet another review. The prior planning commission represented a wide spectrum of local resident views. Let them stand. I believe both Open Space Policies 6 and 8 are examples of these unanimously approved policies.

To finish, I just want to thank Commission members for your public service. Please remember that your privilege and responsibility is to act on behalf of all of us who call Humboldt County home.

Thank you for listening,

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