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## Presentation to Planning Commission- Feb. 27, 2014

First I would like to thank you for making available the unofficial staff notes on the GPU changes you are making in these special meetings - this goes a long way to increase transparency, create more productive public input, and cut down on the misinformation out there as to specifically what you are changing. As I originally requested, it would also be helpful, and further increase transparency, to see how each commissioner voted on each change, so I am renewing my request for that to be added. I don't think it would be too costly in terms of staff time.

My plea for this evening is to request that from now on you limit your process to addressing only those items on the shortlist provided by the Board of Supervisors. Deviation from that represents disrespecting the previous Planning Commission's process, and wasting taxpayers' money – money that could better spent by increasing staff time working on projects in their offices and at the counter in the Planning Department.

The changes you have made so far have served to substantially weaken the environmental safeguards in this GPU. What if, according to the Biblical story in Exodus, Moses would have descended Mount Sinai with commandments six and eight reading "You may not murder" and "You may not steal?" Changing "shall" to "may" and changing words like "Implement" to "Encourage" make a world of difference when comes to commitment!

Part of what the Supervisors wanted you to do is to check for and tweak the plan to increase its consistency. But in the eagerness of some Commissioners to water down the plan by imposing passive words like "encourage" you have completely changed the format in which goal statements are written in this plan. Look at your changes to Conservation and Open Space goals 3 and 4. They both now start with a verb, "Encourage", rather than follow the format of all other goals in the plan, which is tell what the county wants to have, not what it will do. Your changes have even created a grammatically incorrect sentence in CO-G4 which now reads: "Encourage well maintained and accessible parks and trails offering a range of popular recreation opportunities". In that sentence the verb is "encourage" and the object is "parks and trails", so the question is: exactly how do we encourage a trail? Do we speak to it in a reassuring voice or maybe feed it trail mix as comfort food? In your haste to avoid implementing a trail system and to introduce the more passive word "encourage" you've decreased the plan's consistency and even mucked up the grammar. This is just one example of the flaws in your current process.

I'm asking that you please limit and expedite this process and help the county be proud of an environmentally sensible General Plan Update.

Thank you,  
Bob Froehlich, Garberville