



February 26, 2014

John Miller
Senior Planner
Humboldt County Planning Department
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Eureka, CA 95501

email: jpmiller@co.humboldt.ca.us

Re: GPU – Chapter 10, Section 10.5: Conservation & Open Space Elements – Waste Management

Dear Mr. Miller,

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the draft Chapter 10, Section 10.5 Conservation and Open Space Elements – Waste Management. Humboldt Waste Management Authority is a joint powers authority formed through an agreement by the following municipalities in 1999: Arcata, Blue Lake, Eureka, Ferndale, Rio Dell and Humboldt County. HWMA was formed to provide for the economical coordination of integrated waste management services and to provide coordinated solid waste management services for our member entities. Since 1999, HWMA has operated a large volume municipal solid waste transfer station (Hawthorne Street Transfer Station located in Eureka) receiving approximately 170 tons per day of solid waste, overseeing closure activities related to the Cummings Road Landfill, and perform regional collection of household hazardous waste and universal waste, and the composting of green waste.

HWMA has reviewed the most current version of Section 10.5 dated March 19, 2012, and offers the following suggestion:

Section 10.5.2 Background

Integrated Waste Management – HWMA requests the addition of language to clarify that the County’s Integrated Waste Management Plan (IWMP) is statutorily required by the State of California under Public Resource Code, Section 40950.

Waste Diversion Goals

The HWMA Board of Directors adopted HWMA’s Strategic Plan in May of 2013. This Plan is intended to provide HWMA with a framework to guide the development, implementation and management of new and existing programs necessary to meet the State Diversion Goal of 75%, and operational facilities over the next ten years (2013-2023). Actual implementation of the Strategic Plan will

Humboldt Waste Management Authority

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be predicated on the capacity of staff, funding, and the specific priorities as determined by the HWMA Board of Directors (Board). The Strategic Plan is available for review on HWMA's website:

<http://www.hwma.net/sites/default/files/HWMAStrategicPlan2013.pdf>

Solid Waste Facility Siting

HWMA has multiple disposal and associated transportation contracts related to the long term disposal of municipal solid wastes to both the Dry Creek Landfill and Anderson Landfill. Several of these contracts will expire June 2014. In the summer of 2013, the Authority initiated a Request for Proposals process to solicit proposals and secure long-term landfill disposal of municipal solid waste for a minimum of 10 to 15 years. It is expected that the HWMA Board of Directors will be providing direction over the next several months.

HWMA respectfully requests an opportunity to review HWMA's recent activities with County Planning so that the final General Plan Update document incorporates current conditions and developments. Thank you for taking the above comments into consideration

Sincerely,



Jill K. Duffy
Executive Director

cc: HWMA Board of Directors
Nancy Diamond, Legal Counsel