



**Humboldt County
Farm Bureau**



**Humboldt-Del Norte
Cattlemen Association**

Supervisor Estelle Fennel, Chairperson
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors
825 5th Street, Room 111
Eureka, CA 95501

January 30, 2015

RE: Comments on Part 3, Chapter 10, Section 10.2 Open Space and Section 10.7 Scenic Resources of the Humboldt County General Plan Update

Dear Chairperson Fennel and Supervisors,

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the process of updating the Humboldt County General Plan. With this letter we are submitting written comments on Section 10.2 Open Space and 10.7 Scenic Resources of the draft General Plan Update. We understand that the Board of Supervisors has taken straw votes on the Open Space and Scenic Resources Sections and appreciate your consideration of our comments.

The main points of these comments are:

- The creation of Community Separators is not necessary as community separation can be effectively maintained through the appropriate application of land use and zoning.
- The Resource Lands Working Group can support the Board of Supervisors decision to replace Scenic Roadways with Scenic Highways provided that any Corridor Protection Plan adopted by the County, in cooperation with Caltrans, does not unduly limit property rights or allowed uses.
- The benefit/necessity of creating Mapped Scenic Areas is questionable given the Humboldt County Local Coastal Program already provides for Coastal Scenic and Coastal View Areas. The appropriate application of land use and zoning for the inland portions of the County, along with programs such as the Williamson Act, should be sufficient to maintain open space, including scenic areas.

More generally, we do not support General Plan Update measures that would require increasing the demands on current County staff or require hiring more County staff. With the exception of Scenic Highways replacing Scenic Roadways, there are three new programs proposed within Chapter 10.2 Open Space and Chapter 10.7 Scenic Resources. Each of these programs is proposed for implementation through the initiation of a public process to identify, map, and designate the areas to be included in each of these programs. We respectfully suggest that the Board of Supervisors evaluate whether the implementation of the Community Separator, Mapped Scenic Area or Heritage Landscape programs justifies the time and expense incurred by the County staff as part of the General Plan Update process.

Please feel free to contact us if we can be of assistance. Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

Humboldt County Resource Lands Working Group
The Buckeye ~ Humboldt County Farm Bureau
Humboldt Del Norte Cattlemen Association ~ Large Timberland Owners Group
Forest Landowners of California (Humboldt Co. Representatives)

Enclosure

CC: Board of Supervisors: Rex Bohn, Mark Lovelace, Virginia Bass, Ryan Sundberg
Planning Department: Kevin Hamblin, Rob Wall, Michael Richardson