

March 9, 2015

Humboldt County Board of Supervisors  
County Courthouse  
Eureka, CA 95501

Re: GPU Definitions

Dear Chairperson Fennel and Members of the Board,

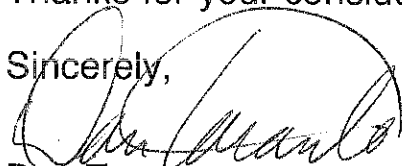
The following two (2) suggestions are submitted for your consideration in the interest of consistency and clarification of the significant distinctions between the definitions for the terms of "**shall**", "**should**" and "**may**" as found in the GPU Chapter 2 (Attachment A) and the Framework Plan (Attachment B). Please note that the GPU is consistent with the Framework Plan with regards to the definitions of "**shall**" and "**should**", however both documents fail to provide any definition of the term "**may**".

1. It is proposed that the existing GPU definitions for "**shall**" and "**should**" as used for guiding planning policy found in GPU Chapter 2, be also included in the GPU Glossary of Definitions.
2. Additionally, it is proposed that a definition for the term "**may**", as used in guiding planning policy, be adopted by the Board for inclusion in the GPU Glossary of Definitions as follows:

**"The term "*may*" is used to indicate a permissible possibility that is optional."** (draft)

Thanks for your consideration,

Sincerely,



Dan Taranto

Note: Dictionaries consulted include Webster's Unabridged Dictionary, Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, Webster's International Dictionary, Black's Law Dictionary and Funk & Wagnalls.

**Websters Collegiate:** may: 1. a. have the ability to, b. have permission to, c. used to indicate the possibility. 2. used in auxiliary function to express a wish or desire. 3. to express purpose or expectation. 4. used in law where the sense, purpose, or policy requires this interpretation *usage* see CAN

STRAW PAVED 3/24/2014

**Standards:** Identifies the standards that will be used to apply policies to a given situation.

**Implementation Measures:** Identifies measures that will be taken to implement the Plan.

## 2.5 Key Terms

As suggested above, the core of this Plan focuses on goals, policies, standards, and implementation measures. Because of the frequency of use and relative importance in the Plan, these terms are explained briefly below.

**Goal:** "A goal is a general expression of community values and, therefore, may be abstract in nature" (2003 General Plan Guidelines, Governor's Office of Planning and Research). Goals should be expressed as ends not action; they set the direction towards an ideal future. Goals are not necessarily quantifiable or time dependent.

**Policy:** A policy is a specific statement that must be followed when making decisions. It indicates an unambiguous commitment of the County to a particular course of action designed to achieve a specific goal.

The policies contained in the Plan are expressed in terms of "shall" or "should". There is an important distinction between these two terms. As used in the Plan, "shall" indicates an unequivocal commitment, while "should" indicates a slightly less rigorous commitment to be followed in the absence of compelling, countervailing factors specified in the General Plan.

**Standard:** A standard is a specific, often quantified rule or measure that helps define how a policy will be enacted. Standards define the abstract terms of goals and policies with concrete specifications.

**Implementation Measure:** An implementation measure is an action, procedure, program, plan, or technique used to carry out General Plan policy.

## 2.6 Maps

The General Plan includes official and background maps. Official maps show the geographic application of the Plan policies, while background maps (referenced as figures in the main text) provide support information. The official maps consist of the following map sets:

**Land Use.** These maps show planned land uses using General Plan land use designations. These maps do not always reflect existing land use, but rather the planned use. They indicate the kind and intensity of planned land uses, such as rural residential, 5 to 20 acres per dwelling unit.

**Biological Resources.** These maps show identified sensitive biological resources. The level of detail and accuracy is highly variable so project-specific mapping is usually necessary to determine the actual location and extent of such resources. These maps are useful for regional planning and to flag the need for specific on-site review to determine the nature and extent of the resources present.

1343 The Public

One of the first goals approved in the beginning of this program was:

To maximize the opportunity for individuals and groups to have meaningful participation in the planning process.

This goal was developed from the understanding that the public will be more able to support policies guiding the development of the County when an opportunity to participate in the development and review of the general plan has been provided. Through this exposure, and the contributions it makes to the process and the product, the public will hopefully gain greater understanding of the plan. Participation not only in the review of this document, but also in proposing subsequent revisions to improve what is adopted, will help insure that this document will remain a current statement of public policy.

1400 HOW TO USE THE PLAN

1410 OVERVIEW

The general plan is designed to be used by elected and appointed County officials on a daily basis. It is not designed for infrequent consultation and failure to use the plan will quickly cause it to become out of date and irrelevant. As described in Section 1300, there are many areas where decisions with direct or indirect land use implications are required to be consistent with the General Plan.

1420 KEY TERMS

The plan consists of both text and maps. The text contains direction in several different forms described as the following key terms. An understanding is required in order to use the Plan. These key terms are described below.

A GOAL is the ultimate purpose of an effort stated in a way that is general and immeasurable. Example: "The optimum amount of prime and non-prime agricultural land shall be conserved for and maintained in agricultural use to promote and increase Humboldt County's agricultural production."

A POLICY is a specific statement guiding action and implying clear commitment. Example: "The conversion of economically viable agricultural lands shall be monitored and reported annually."

The policies contained in the Plan are expressed in terms of "shall" or "should". There is an important distinction between these two terms.

As used in the Plan, "shall" indicates an unequivocal commitment, while "should" indicates a slightly less rigorous commitment to be followed in the absence of compelling, countervailing factors specified in the General Plan.