



Humboldt County Planning and Building Department
3015 H Street
Eureka, CA. 85501
Attn: Michael Richardson

P.O. Box 624, Fortuna, CA. 95540

Directors:

Dave Feral
Feral Family Farm

Paul Giuntoli
Warren Creek Farm

Portia Bramble

John Gary
Organic Matters Ranch

Clif Clendenen
Clendenen's Cider Works

Kevin & Melanie Cunningham
Shakefork Community Farm

Erin Derden-Little

Jacque and Amy Newkom
Newkom Family Farm

Mel Krieb
Flood Plain Produce

Martha Spencer MS
Natural Resource Planner

Jared Zystro PhD
Plant Breeder and Geneticist

John LaBoyteaux
Camp Grant Family Farm

RE: GPU—RDEIR

Dear Michael:

This group of local industry experts and representatives believes that Humboldt County planning policies, both past and present, have never recognized the unique and diverse agricultural productivity of inland regions of the County as compared to the well known dairy lands around Humboldt Bay.

A mountainous and forested county, Humboldt has multiple agricultural districts, with excellent agricultural soils where much of the regions' food production is currently taking place. These areas are different from the well known dairy lands around Humboldt Bay. These inland areas have a longer growing season, support a wide diversity of crops, and have developed their own transportation systems and market opportunities.

Walk down the line at multiple farmers markets throughout the County and note where the farms are located. Orleans, Willow Creek, Blue Lake, Jacoby Creek, Carlotta, the Van Duzen, Mid-Eel, and Mattole Valleys, Ettersburg, Phillipsville, Garberville and more. The fertile lands in these areas are sought by the farmers raising the wide variety of crops that support a vibrant local food system. Some farmers in these areas also export crops to out of County markets.

Focused mostly on timber, dairy and cattle, neither the 1984 Framework Plan nor the GPU recognizes these areas for their unique and important agricultural contribution to the County. While the 60 acre minimum parcel for AE lands is universally supported by Humboldt agriculture, most all of the agricultural conversions, through land use designation changes in the GPU, are located in these more inland agricultural districts.

The new "Residential Agriculture" designation, like its predecessors "Agricultural Rural" and "Agriculture Suburban" is a residential designation. These designations are intended to provide first for residential development and do not recognize the unique value and productivity of prime agricultural soils. Retaining those soils in units large enough to sustainably support a wide range of agricultural crops, is not the purpose of these designations.

On existing smaller parcels of prime soil, allowing two residential units by right within a three acre curtilage may remove agriculture from the parcel entirely. Agricultural parcels cannot be equated with TPZ parcels which are generally larger overall.

Food, Fiber and Flowers requests, as an implementation measure in the GPU, that the County identify and inventory prime agricultural soil parcels within the agricultural districts listed above and any other unique locations throughout the County.

Thank you.

John LaBoyteaux