

# REDWOOD REGION AUDUBON SOCIETY

A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY  
P.O. BOX 1054, EUREKA, CALIFORNIA 95502



November 15, 2018

Subject: General Plan Update Re-zoning Amendment

Dear Humboldt County Supervisors:

Members of the Redwood Region Audubon Society (RRAS) have attempted to participate in the General Plan Update (GPU) process for nearly twenty years. Unfortunately, many of us have been frustrated due to a lengthy and drawn-out process that took place as though it was designed to discourage public participation. Because of this, many people are confused and upset by the Planning Commission's November 1 decision to go forward with the re-zoning process in a single step. Given the irregularity of opportunities for public input and the complexity of the process, RRAS believes that changes need to be made to the re-zoning process as follows:

1. Public information meetings should be held in each community planning area with at least a 30-day public notice for each meeting.
2. No new development on flood plains subject to flooding. Establish flood-prone areas based on probability and current hydrological data. Due to climate change, past 100- and 500-year flood-plain models will be less applicable than they once were.
3. Setbacks and use designations adjacent to streams and rivers should encourage natural riparian wildlife habitat. Sound agricultural practices are compatible with this approach. Furthermore, robust riparian vegetation protects against erosion and frequent flooding, while healthy wildlife communities provide critical pest-control services to agriculture.
4. Agriculture Exclusive (AE) areas should be limited to exclusively agriculture-related use. Current land-use designations for AE that allow gravel mining, and some industry and services uses, are not appropriate.
5. The so-called "Q" zoning regarding cannabis should not be part of the overall GPU process. The cannabis industry involves both agricultural and industrial processes. Permits and uses should be granted based on the type of use, not the specific crop or product being produced. Our current cannabis ordinance should be superimposed on the general plan for that specific use, not part of it.

Thank you for including our concerns in the planning process.

Sincerely,

Alexa DeJoannis, President  
Redwood Region Audubon Society

A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY