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Sent: Friday, December 7, 2018 3:07 PM

To: Planning Clerk <planningclerk@co.humboldt.ca.us>; Hayes, Kathy <KHayes@co.humboldt.ca.us>

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Subject: County Re-Zoning as it relates to implementing the General Plan

Dear Humboldt County Planning and Supervisor's Clerks, Supervisors, and Planners,

I'm new to offering public comment and I hope my e-mail is going to the correct folks and hope I haven't gotten carried away with the Cc. Thank you for receiving my submission.

I am writing out of concern for Glendale and other communities who feel the County is moving too quickly to re-zone as it relates to implementing the General Plan. I'm not writing to protest the land use designations. Rather, I'm writing to request that more time be provided for the re-zoning process.

Glendale and other communities such as Willow Creek and Fieldbrook are showing a great deal of interest in how re-zoning will influence the places they live and work. Recent election outcomes indicate the people in District 5 were unhappy with how our community had been treated by self-interests. The will of the community appears to disagree with Supervisor Sundberg, and I hope we can delay re-zoning for a more careful and deliberate plan on how re-zoning can be for the greater good. On Monday, December 4th, a well-attended meeting in Blue Lake was a wonderful place to begin. The fact that our Supervisor was too ill to attend attests to the time it takes to fairly engage the community. We need more time to understand and be heard regarding re-zoning. Please let's have the time to re-zone well.

As a resident of Glendale I am very aware of its past and current status for industrial and residential importance. Glendale is a diverse community because it has historically been unclassified which in effect has meant agriculture and multiple use. I personally own a small parcel that has been a rural farm cottage since the late 1890's. My neighbor has a beautiful redwood barn and a home from the same time period. For us and many others in the neighborhood, rezoning could mean no more chickens. Chickens and roosters have been part of Glendale's character for decades. If change is for the greater good, I can accept it. But is it?

Concern for my rooster may be a silly and self interested concern but it's symbolic too. I'm a small land owner that will have my multiple use possibilities diminished by re-zoning. Small changes like this will change the character of Glendale, making it a suburb capable of providing a good place for many more people to live and work. If this is progress and necessary for managing growth then this must come with County supported infrastructure improvements.

We have problems to solve; serious soil contamination is a topper and our water and sewer system is infamously limited. Additionally, Glendale Drive is heavily trafficked by drug dealers and other outlaws and has significant drainage problems in places such as Swanson Lane. Potholes and chipped windshields are part of our life. It's also become common for commercial and industrial properties to face the public street with barbed-wire and berry brambles. Who wants to live and drive by that everyday? There is a lot of need for improvement. Will re-zoning help solve these problems?

Additionally, the creeks and drainages to the Mad River need to be addressed when re-zoning - how can we protect water quality for Humboldt Bay residents? Creeks such as Mill/Hall Creek have had partial restorations and are recovering riparian zones frequented by animals such as elk, beaver, otter, salmon, eel, wood ducks, and so on....

And what about those Elk? They have shown they go where they want to go but not always safely. Often searching for water in the fall the elk roam Glendale as if they own the place. They kind of do. When they're seeking water they are getting more and more bold about reaching the Mad River. As land owners such as the Christi ranch make it difficult for the elk (there is a dead elk in their field now), the more they go into the neighborhoods and the more they want to cross 299. Many elk have already been hit and killed on the highway - this is a hazard for even cautious drivers. How is re-zoning going to help solve this problem? The elk are a community asset, we just need to learn how to work with them and help land-owners manage their needs. The elk aren't going away, the herd is bigger every year.

With all the effort and time regarding the General Plan adoption it isn't asking much to want a bit more time for community input on re-zoning. When zoning becomes law, the more people on-board the better. Over the years, many self and special interests have known how to advocate for themselves. There is nothing wrong with this, but the County has an obligation to include other voices especially when those other voices are now standing up to speak. Shouldn't we take the time to help ensure that re-zoning is for a better community?

Please give the re-zoning process the time it needs to work out our best path for a place that's great to work, live, and play nor just for ourselves but for Humboldt.

Thank you kindly,

Joseph Wilhelm

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