



Humboldt County Farm Bureau

5601 So. Broadway, Eureka, CA 95503
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FARM BUREAU COMMENTS TO THE PANNING COMMISSION, MARCH 15, 2007

Chapter 16. Mineral Resources

We believe that it is not a good idea to establish some maximum quota on extractions within the General Plan. Demands and supplies are too fluid and the General Plan is not. The County's present system of utilizing the CHERT, combined with appropriate environmental reviews, monitoring and adaptive management seems to be working without specific limits being included within the General Plan.

There is a significant need to protect existing hard rock quarries against residential encroachment. The residential encroachment issue also applies to access roads for gravel and other extraction operations.

The County and other local governments need access to rock pits and gravel for the maintenance and improvement of the road system. We would suggest that you seek the opinions of the various Public Works departments and the Caltrans about their needs in the future.

We do see the need of a 'right to mine' ordinance, particularly with respect to existing quarries, gravel operations and haul routes.

Chapter 17. Energy

An additional level of bureaucracy is not needed to regulate energy use within the County as this is already the role of the PUC. In general, we do not support the additional bureaucracy within or in relation to the County government. In addition, the proposed set aside of revenues that may come to the County through energy operations to support this agency could better be spent on police, fire or other services provided within the County.

Patterns of land use will impact energy use in the county and should be one of the many considerations in establishing the location and intensity of development.

Conservation measures should be addressed through building codes.

Chapter 18. Waste Management

The County currently has a contract for shipping all collected waste out of the county and this is not expected to change for the duration of this General Plan update. Recycling is part of the existing waste management plan.

Chapter 19. Air Quality

Regulation of Air Quality is a state pre-empted area and we do not need additional regulation at the local level. We would suggest that the current referral process continue to be utilized with reliance upon the authorities and jurisdiction of the Air Quality Management District for regulation and implementation.

As a general suggestion, it would be helpful to have the Glossary contained within the Framework Plan and the other definitions contained within the other Planning documents be combined. Then, as terms are introduced within the plan update, this document could then be modified through the addition or modification of terms.