

Water-Wise Development for a Fish-Friendly Future

Now is the time to voice your support for healthy streams and rivers!

The Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors are currently considering the future of Humboldt County's water resources as part of the General Plan Update. We need policies to guide future development to protect our streams and rivers for fish, farmers, and future generations.

Take action by expressing your support of one or more of the following:

WATERSHED PLANNING

- Adopt a watershed-based approach for planning to address issues of dangerously-low river flows, water supply shortages and salmon habitat restoration.
- Promote water-wise development strategies in urban and rural watersheds.
- Promote coordination between local watershed groups, community members and County and State agencies to protect water resources.

RESTORATION OF WATER FLOWS

- Restore river flows to support abundant salmon populations, reduce toxic algae blooms, and maintain a stable water supply for local residents and agriculture.
- Support installation of water storage tanks, rainwater catchment and wet-weather water harvest to reduce water withdrawals from impacted watersheds during low-flow conditions.
- Encourage "Low Impact Development" techniques that conserve natural drainage patterns and allow for the renewal of groundwater supplies.
- Promote riparian buffer zones to protect water quality.

WATER-WISE, FISH-FRIENDLY DEVELOPMENT

- Promote practices such as the use of rainwater gardens, swales, and permeable pavement to reduce stormwater runoff, pollution, and sediment discharge.
- Support water conservation and reuse efforts such as low-flow fixtures, native plant landscaping, and greywater system installation and water reuse.
- Promote the design and maintenance of roadways to minimize erosion and sediment delivery into streams and rivers.
- Encourage cleanup and redevelopment of contaminated areas to reduce water pollution.
- Focus most new development in areas already served by existing infrastructure to reduce impacts on forests and farmland, and to keep our rivers cool, clean and healthy.

For meeting updates or to find out more, visit www.healthyhumboldt.org.

SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS via email to m Spencer@co.humboldt.ca.us

OR by U.S. mail to: Humboldt County Community Development Services,
Attn: Martha Spencer, 3015 H Street, Eureka, CA 95501

Sample Comment Letter for the GPU's Water Resources Element

Your Name, Address and Date

Re: Comments on the Water Resources Element of the General Plan Update

Dear Planning Commissioners,

Opening Paragraph

Identify yourself and your interest as a stakeholder. Personalize the letter with information specific to your situation to help draw the reader in. Are there places you used to fish or swim that you can't anymore? If you use a spring or creek for your water supply, do you worry about the water quality or that you will run out of water sometime during the dry season?

Second Paragraph

Identify why this is an important issue for the whole of the County. It is helpful to address health, environmental, and economic benefits.

Example: Water shortages have impacted many parts of the county. Our rivers have become less safe to swim in because of toxic algae. Low summer flows have also affected salmon populations. It is crucial for the General Plan to address these issues.

Example: Protecting our water resources will help restore salmon populations that have long been a cornerstone of our culture, environment, and economy.

Third Paragraph

Provide general recommendations (or a summary of your specific recommendations). For more ideas, take a look at our talking points. Find them online at www.healthyhumboldt.org.

Example: I support policies that protect water quality and quantity to help restore salmon populations, protect drinking water supplies, and ensure adequate water for farmers and future generations.

Example: The health of our streams and rivers is tied directly to land use practices and management. The County should adopt Watershed-based planning to address stormwater pollution and prevent water shortages.

Fourth Paragraph

Here you can delve into detailed policy recommendations:

Example: I support requirements for Low Impact Development strategies that promote groundwater recharge and pollution prevention as called for in the Alternative A version of Policy WR-P38.

Closing

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Water Resources Element of the County's General Plan Update. I hope this Commission puts forward strong recommendations that will protect [streams, rivers, fish, coastal resources...] to benefit residents for generations to come.

Sincerely,
