

Additional Comments on General Plan Elements

Peter Lehman, 7/5/23

Air Quality Element

- **Policy AQ-1b: Reduce emissions from stationary area sources: residential, commercial, and industrial.** Even though there is tradition of wood-burning in this area, there is no reason City policy should support this practice going forward; emissions from wood-burning stoves are very significant air quality and health hazards. Suggest that this policy be changed to eliminate wood-burning from any new construction and read as follows: **“Wood-burning appliances are banned in any new construction in the City. Residents are encouraged to replace wood-burning appliances currently in use with electric heat pump (preferred) or gas fired appliances whenever possible.”**
- **4.9 Implementation Measures. AQ-2: Funding sources for wood-burning appliance retrofits for low income and elderly.** Suggest the following: **“Use funding obtained to eliminate wood-burning appliances and replace them with electric heat pump (preferred) or gas fired appliances whenever possible.”**

Noise Element

- **Policy N-5: Intrusive and Intermittent Noise Sources, N-5d, #2:** Note that this policy stipulates that heavy equipment will not be used on Sundays and holidays. I’ll note that this is a Christian slanted policy. While Christians consider Sunday the Sabbath, the Sabbath is Friday for Muslims and Saturday for Jews. Do we want to change this in some way to reflect a more ecumenical policy?

Resource Conservation Element

- **Climate Action Planning Overview:** Suggest changing the last sentence as follows: There is scientific consensus that significant human-caused greenhouse gas emissions reductions are needed ~~by the mid-21st century~~ **immediately** to prevent the most catastrophic effects of climate change.

Introduction

- **Regional and Local Setting:** I suggest eliminating the word **“Funky”** from the list of community attributes. Personal note: I have spent my professional career trying to deflect the reputation of Humboldt County as “pot smoking” and “funky.” It painted me—and all of us by association—as laid-back, unprofessional, and not serious about the important work we are doing. We do not want to perpetuate that reputation.