

## WHERE IS THE HARBOR COLLABORATION WE NEED?

All Harbor-jurisdictional agencies should be included in major decisions about the Harbor.

These agencies are the County of Humboldt, the City of Eureka, the Wiyot Tribe, and the Harbor District. Each has some authority over the Harbor portion of Humboldt Bay; and each has its particular interests in the overall development and use of the Harbor. Actually, not only do all four of the agencies have a right to participate in Harbor decisions; they also have an obligation to promote and protect the particular interests of the people they represent.

But, participation in major decisions about the Harbor has been exclusive rather than inclusive.

The good news, let's say, is that the County, the City, and the Tribe have been involved in sharing of information with the Harbor District. However, they have not participated in major decisions made by the Harbor District that will significantly affect the future of the Harbor. The County Supervisors and the City and Tribal Council members do not know if the Harbor District's decisions are in the best interests of the County, City and Tribe.

We can't ignore that there is one common interest shared by all in the Humboldt Bay region...good jobs and a sustainable economy. The best opportunity for this is our Harbor. It is underutilized; and with collaboration the four agencies can help create jobs and grow our economy by cultivating better use of the Harbor.

We critically need to develop and carry out one vision for the overall development and use of the Harbor. This means that the four agencies that have authorities over the use and development of our Harbor need to come to agreement about the Harbor's future.

They need agreement about strategy for better use of the Harbor; about priorities for spending our public resources on the Harbor; and about a plan of action to carry out the strategy consistent with the priorities.

A glance through our various Harbor plans (some current, and others shelved) will show that there is an overall common theme on strategies, priorities, and a plan of action for the development and use of the Harbor.

The strategy seems to be to provide (1) an adequate inventory of lands zoned and ready for harbor dependent or related development; (2) affordable harbor

infrastructure of power and water supply and access to customers and suppliers; and (3) incentives to facilitate and reduce costs of harbor development.

While there are other uses of the Bay, in the Harbor portion of the Bay the top three priority-uses we have supported with our public monies appear to be shipping, fishing, and recreation.

What we really need now is that collaborative “general” plan of action for providing the land, infrastructure, and incentives needed for better utilization of the Harbor for shipping, fishing, and recreation.

The citizens’ Harbor Working Group has developed a scope of work for a good, common-sense plan of action. Most, if not all, the components for one plan of action already exist in our various current Harbor plans, albeit not all in one plan.

This is not “re-inventing the wheel.”

Except for political will, we have everything needed for the four agencies to consolidate their individual plans into one collaborative strategy, one collaborative set of priorities, and one collaborative plan of action for the overall development and use of the Harbor.

With this one plan we can then work to get local control over our Harbor affairs, and secure funding assistance for capital improvements we choose to make.

If you agree that all Harbor-jurisdictional agencies should be included in major decisions about the Harbor, join the citizens’ Harbor Working Group in its mission to get the four agencies to work together...not just to share information about their planning efforts; but to collaboratively make decisions about developing the harbor in a manner that brings more good paying jobs to our area.