

## **A Major Step in the Right Direction**

What makes for a healthy community? Some thoughts come to mind: clean air and water, of course; good schools; a feeling of safety; a friendly, united community; and jobs ... plenty of them.

Here in Humboldt we have much of what it takes to be a healthy community, and one factor can make a huge difference jobs: JOBS! And not just any jobs, but quality jobs that pay living wages, that fill not only local needs, but needs beyond our county.

The ***Humboldt Bay Harbor Working Group*** is an activists' group working towards collaborative action on job-creating harbor projects. Our Mission is to provide information; encourage collaboration; and push for job creation in the development of Humboldt Bay Harbor.

This citizens' Working Group has been active for over two years. We have initiated and sponsored programs to inform the community about the harbor and its potential for jobs ... quality jobs. We also have been working with those local agencies having direct jurisdiction over Humboldt Bay Harbor and its use and development. Our appeal is that action be taken to make job-creating harbor projects happen. The question is: if not you, who? If not now, when?

The ***Humboldt Bay harbor Working Group*** is pleased to announce that the Eureka City Council, Humboldt Bay Harbor District, Wiyot Tribal Council, and Humboldt County Board of Supervisors have joined together and agreed to take collaborative action on job-creating harbor projects.

The four agencies have appointed a new ad hoc committee consisting of representatives from each agency. The committee will soon meet to organize and decide on a scope of work to be completed within a timeline they determine.

We are convinced that this committee can achieve great things for our community, and we have high expectations. We expect new and vibrant ideas, not just business as usual. We expect the agencies to develop and maintain a collaborative relationship to achieve that goal – that the participants will agree on a mission and goals; that they will equally share responsibility, authority and accountability for the outcomes; and that they will learn from each other and encourage citizen participation as they proceed with their vital work.

True collaboration can result in more and better job-creating harbor projects; greater commitment and fewer obstacles toward achieving that goal; improved working relationships; increased organizational learning and enhanced public satisfaction.

On behalf of the ***Humboldt Bay Harbor Working Group***, I thank those elected officials and staff members who have agreed to serve the community in this way. They are to be congratulated. The Group is committed to assisting in the process when asked. We are also committed to be observers, to give input, and to keep the public informed on this new collaborative and proactive effort toward making Humboldt a healthier community.

Susana Munzell, Chair of the ***Humboldt Bay Harbor Working Group***

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