

Hi, Fred Nelson for Community Comment.

The latter part of July, I attended the regularly scheduled luncheon of the Humboldt Bay Harbor Working Group at the Samoa Cookhouse. The group is not affiliated with the Humboldt Bay Harbor Commission and was formed in Twenty Eleven by community members who recognized the potential of Humboldt Bay Harbor and are interested in creating living wage jobs. Since their inception a collaborative plan has been developed which includes strategy, priorities and a plan of action. This was the subject introduced at the July luncheon. Titled "How to Create Harbor Jobs", the presentation was given by Harbor Working Group member Mr. Larry Henderson. I would think there are a number of plans by other groups and individuals of how they might go about improving our Harbor. Personally, I have never seen or heard of a particular plan so I have nothing to compare with the plan presented that day. With that being said, I was impressed by all the thought and wisdom that went into this well laid out blueprint. This is no "pie in the sky" dream, but facts that have to be faced and considered if there is to be an improved harbor. As Mr. Henderson stated, there has to be agreement by all interested groups that there be one strategy, one set of priorities and one plan of action. The strategy, as set out in the Harbor Working Group paper, would be an adequate land inventory, adequate and affordable infrastructure and incentives. The priorities would include National and international shipping, sport and commercial fishing and inbound tourism. The plan of action would be making lands available, improving infrastructure and providing incentives. I have only given you the highlights of the Harbor Working Group's proposal. If you want greater detail, I suggest that you go to www.humboldtworkingport.org . You can learn much more about the organization at that site. If you would like to learn firsthand of the group's goals, I am sure that you are most welcome to their monthly luncheon which is held on the last Wednesday of each month at the Samoa Cookhouse. The future of the Harbor of Humboldt Bay needs a well thought out plan that is mutually acceptable to all factions involved. I think that this could be a great beginning from what I have heard and read. I don't know how many organizations are caught up in the future of Humboldt Bay but it would be great if they could come together. For those of you who are wary of politicians and developers, I think your fears will be allayed once you go to the website and read the Group's vision, mission and values. Hopefully, you might be pleasantly surprised.

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