



December 8, 2020

County of Humboldt, Board of Supervisors
Supervisor Estelle Fennell, Chair
Supervisor Mike Wilson, Vice Chair
Supervisor Rex Bohn
Supervisor Virginia Bass
Supervisor Steve Madrone

Submitted via e-mail to cob@co.humboldt.ca.us

Re: December 8, 2020 Board of Supervisors Meeting, Agenda Item 27, Adoption of Relocation Assistance Policy for County Property Acquisition

Dear Chair Fennell and Supervisors,

Legal Services of Northern California writes to submit public comment on the above agenda item. Pursuant to a settlement agreement between our clients and the County in *Martinson v. County of Humboldt*, the County is required to adopt a relocation policy that complies with the California Relocation Assistance Act (the Act) and its implementing regulations. Gov't Code §§7260, *et seq.*, 25 CCR §§6000, *et seq.*

As the staff report indicates, our co-counsel in *Martinson*, S. Lynn Martinez with Disability Rights of California, sent County Counsel a letter dated October 14, 2020 identifying the ways in which the County's proposed relocation policy did not comply with the Act and its implementing regulations. See Attachment 3 to the Staff Report. County Counsel reviewed our comments and made some changes to the policy in response. However, the policy submitted for your vote today still deviates from the requirements of the Act and its implementing regulations.

The County did not address, or fully address, our comments from the October 14, 2020 letter including comments on the definition of displacing activity (see Section II of the October 14, 2020 letter) and the following sections of the policy: 1.1(c); 1.1(e); 1.6; 3.12; 3.13; 5.5(a); and 5.9. Accordingly, Plaintiff's counsel in *Martinson v. County of Humboldt* has not approved the proposed policy and the policy does not comply with the Act and its implementing regulations for the reasons described in Ms. Martinez's October 14, 2020 letter.

Sincerely,
LEGAL SERVICES OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

/s/ Greg M. Holtz

Greg M. Holtz
Acting Managing Attorney

CC: County Counsel
Co-Counsel

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