

County Ad Hoc Committee & Mendocino Partnership for the Precautionary Principle Develop Language for a Precautionary Principle Policy

On March 6, 2006, the Ad Hoc Committee of the Mendocino Board of Supervisors consisting of Supervisors Smith and Colfax along with County staff and the Mendocino Partnership for the Precautionary Principle (<http://mendoprecaution.org/committee.html>) continued to review language for a Precautionary Policy for Mendocino County. Also present at the meeting were John Rogers (Director, Environmental Health), Carol Mordhorst (Director, Public Health), Pete Halstad (Director, General Services), John Ball (County Chief Executive Officer), and Jeanine Nadal (County Counsel).

The meeting's discussion focused on additional editing of the policy as well as operational, administrative, and implementation aspects.

1. It was agreed that after three years from the date of the policy's adoption, the Executive Office would be responsible for reporting on the implementation and results of the Precautionary Principle Policy.
2. Thereafter, it was agreed that the Executive Office would conduct and present an annual evaluation of the County's performance in implementing these principles and in complying with all applicable laws and regulations.
3. The policy will make clear that the Precautionary Principle Policy needs to be considered by all departments. However, the Policy will make clear that Precautionary Frameworks and Implementation Guidelines will be phased-in using a few departments as pilots. This framework will include the five elements specifically stated in the policy.

The Ad Hoc Committee studying the Precautionary Principle will meet again on Monday, April 3, 2006, 12:00 PM at the Administrative Center (501 Low Gap Rd.) in Ukiah, Conference Room B.

Mendocino's Precautionary Principle Policy is modeled on the Precautionary Principle Ordinance adopted by the City/County of San Francisco in July 2003 (<http://www.sfenvironment.com/aboutus/innovative/pp/>).

To receive a copy of the DRAFT Mendocino County Precautionary Principle Policy contact: britt@mcn.org