

First Principals and First Peoples

California's Story is violent and beautiful. I doubt that any state moved faster from frontier to statehood. The metrics of this transformation were greed, racism, and disrespect for the natural world that welcomed settlers with almost unimaginable bounty.

First Nations People had to be gotten rid of. With that accomplished, we did whatever we wished to the natural world, in our rush to acquire. The gold and the riches of the land were there for the taking.

This rapacious attitude towards nature is still a strong force in our community. Fortunately, there are countervailing attitudes and beliefs that also have a strong foot hold here in Fort Bragg. Love of nature and an ethic of protecting and nurturing our living home are strongly held values. The desire to learn Traditional Ecological Knowledge-TEK-from First Nations people is earnest, if a little hazy.

I welcome this chance to share some basic concepts that I feel should be foundational for our talk of the future of our region. I will focus on the millsite as this has been my focus for over 17 years.

1. A Central Parkland area where creeks are being daylighted is essential.
 - a. The unreliable old beach berm must be dismantled so a natural estuary would be the transition between the daylighted creeks and the Pacific.
 - b. The ponds and topsoil must be cleaned to a safe level for the restoration and recreation.
 - c. Trails should be constructed that are educational, historical and Art focused walkways which entertain, educate and enrich walkers lives.
 - d. Restoration and it's benefits should be highlighted.
 - e. A "Climate Walk" could educate and suggest ways we all can do something to forestall the Climate Catastrophe.
2. The northern portion of the property--now owned by the Skunks--is the appropriate place for workforce housing and any commercial growth, BUT NOT AT THE EXPENSE OF THE CBD--Central Business District!
3. Fact: We have ten years to decarbonize the economy. Everywhere in our community this must be a guiding principle. This includes the Skunk property.
 - a. How will we electrify motor transportation and encourage walking and biking?
 - b. Energy independence and a local microgrid will strengthen our

community.

c. All buildings and planning requirements should establish mandatory zoning of renewable energy generation and water catchment. These should be incentivized.

d. In every way, we must encourage growing local food. Green Houses work great on the coast.

3. Another big idea that probably should happen on the Skunk property is an ECO-INDUSTRIAL PARK.

a. This could include aspects of the cannabis industry, green houses for food, herbal medicine production. And always the recycling of by-products into other uses.

b. In our rapidly changing climate and all the challenges this presents-- MOST EVERYTHING STILL REALLY GROWS WELL HERE.

4. Restoration should be the guiding principle for all future planning.

a. We are already home to: MLT, RFFI, Ecology Action, NFF, Noyo Center, and more--all grown locally!

b. There are also global players in this effort: The Nature Conservancy, The Conservation Fund, Lime Forest Products (I'm not sure they are restorers, but they claim it,)

c. Local restoration experts: The Mendo Resource Conservation District, North Coast Resource Partnership and the above mentioned local groups. Also the CCC--California Conservation Corps (County resource, State funded.)

d. The California Coastal Commission is now focusing on climate and environmental justice as well as environmental protection.

5. Through the years, many more excellent ideas have been proposed and explored. I will only list them. There are mountains of info on all of these possibilities.

a. The Intervale in Burlington VT, Blue Zones and the Blue Economy, An Herbal College outpost, joining Iclei, better connecting with Mendo College, and many more.

Many Thanks,

Have a good meeting.

George Reinhardt