

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

NORTH COAST DISTRICT
1385 8TH STREET, SUITE 130
ARCATA, CA 95521
PHONE: (707) 826-8950
WWW.COASTAL.CA.GOV



F7

Prepared October 24, 2025 (for the November 7, 2025 Hearing)

To: Commissioners and Interested Parties

From: Shana Gray, North Coast District Deputy Director

Subject: North Coast District Deputy Director's Report for November 2025

The following coastal development permit (CDP) waivers, immaterial CDP amendments, CDP extensions, emergency CDPs, and local government acceptance of modifications for LCP certification for the North Coast District Office are being reported to the Commission on November 7, 2025. Pursuant to the Commission's procedures, each item has been appropriately noticed as required, and each item is also available for review at the Commission's North Coast District Office in Arcata. Staff is asking for the Commission's concurrence on the waivers, immaterial amendments, and time extensions. The other items are presented for the Commission's information. Staff will report any objections received and any other relevant information on these items to the Commission when they consider the North Coast District Deputy Director's report on November 7th (item **F7**).

With respect to the August hearing, interested persons may sign up to address the Commission on items contained in this report prior to the Commission's consideration of this report. The Commission can overturn staff's noticed determinations for some categories of items subject to certain criteria in each case (see individual notices for specific requirements). **Below are items to report on November 7, 2025:**

Waivers

- **1-25-0202-W, El Capitan Environmental** – Follow-up to Emergency CDP G-1-24-0020 issued December 2, 2024 to repair a dike breach in an existing agricultural dike by placing rock and soil within a portion of the berm that washed away at 4639 Myrtle Avenue, Eureka area (Humboldt County).

LCP Certifications

- **LCP-1-HUM-24-0034-1-Part A** (Humboldt County Sign Ordinance)

Immaterial Amendments, Permit Time Extensions, Emergency Permits - None

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October 22, 2025

Coastal Development Permit Waiver Improvements to Existing Structures or Repair and Maintenance Coastal Act Section 30610

Based on the project plans and information provided in your permit application for the development described below, the Executive Director of the Coastal Commission hereby waives the requirement for a Coastal Development Permit pursuant to Section 13250(c), Section 13252(e), or Section 13253(c), Title 14, California Code of Regulations. If, at a later date, this information is found to be incorrect or the plans revised, this decision will become invalid, and any development occurring must cease until a coastal development permit is obtained or any discrepancy is resolved in writing.

Waiver: 1-25-0202-W

Applicant: El Capitan Environmental Services, Attn: Harry Boyajian

Agent: Jim Redd

Location: On an agricultural dike bordering Ryan Slough, a tributary to Humboldt Bay, at 4639 Myrtle Ave, Eureka area, Humboldt County (APN: 017-151-002)

Proposed Development

Follow-up to Emergency Permit No. G-1-24-0020 issued December 2, 2024, to repair a breach in an existing agricultural dike by placing approximately 700 cubic feet of rock and soil within a portion of the berm that washed away.

Executive Director's Waiver Determination

The subject earthen agricultural dike was constructed prior to enactment of the Coastal Act and prevents tidal water from Ryan Slough, a tributary to Humboldt Bay, from flooding agricultural lands, roads, and structures inland of the berm. In December 2024, during significant rains and high tides, a portion of the berm system that crosses the subject property failed, resulting in flooding and inundation of hundreds of acres of adjacent agricultural lands. The property is developed with a farm residence and two barns, which are both located between 7-10 feet (NAVD 88) in elevation. The agricultural lands are lower in elevation, approximately 5 feet. Due to the threat of

Coastal Development Permit Waiver 1-25-0202-W

flooding active grazing lands and farm-related structures, the Executive Director issued an emergency permit for immediate repairs to fix the failed berm.

The repair and maintenance work that the applicant is seeking follow-up authorization for consists of 25 linear feet of rock armoring along a several-mile-long earthen agricultural dike along Ryan Slough. This placement of the rock material, which represents a small percentage of the larger dike system, is limited to the footprint of the failed portion of dike, results in no new wetland fill, and the rock has been appropriately sized to ensure stability and structural integrity.

Repair work was completed over two days in December 2024 and included the use of two excavators, one dump truck and one skid steer. Work consisted of: 1) staging materials at a paved pullout off of Myrtle Avenue; 2) hauling materials to the repair site from the staging area via an existing access road through the pastureland; and 3) placing the material into the breach site with an excavator during low tide conditions. Vegetation removal was minimal and limited to the area directly affected by the repairs, and the disturbed soils surrounding the work site were seeded with a pasture grass seed mix following completion of repairs. Work was conducted during a minus tide to minimize the potential for impacts to marine resources and water quality during repairs.

Ultimately, the repair and maintenance work took two days to complete, implemented appropriate BMPs (e.g., work conducted at minus tide when no water was present in the channel, and erosion control materials and straw mulch were used to stabilize disturbed soils, etc.), and was limited to the minimum extent necessary to repair the dike breach.

Therefore, the proposed development will not adversely impact coastal resources, public access, or public recreation opportunities, and is consistent with past Commission actions in the area and Chapter Three policies of the Coastal Act.

Coastal Commission Review Procedure

This waiver is not valid until the waiver has been reported to the Coastal Commission and the site of the proposed development has been appropriately noticed, pursuant to sec. 13054(b) of the California Code of Regulations. The Notice of Pending Permit shall remain posted at the site until the waiver has been validated and no less than seven days prior to the Commission hearing. **This waiver is proposed to be reported to the Commission on Friday, November 7, 2025.** If three or more Commissioners object to this waiver at that time, then the application shall be processed as a regular CDP application.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS WILL BE A HYBRID MEETING, WITH BOTH VIRTUAL AND IN PERSON PARTICIPATION ALLOWED. Please see the Coastal Commission's Hybrid Hearing Procedures posted on the Coastal Commission's webpage at www.coastal.ca.gov/mtgcurr.html for details on the procedures of this hearing. If you

Coastal Development Permit Waiver
1-25-0202-W

would like to receive a paper copy of the Coastal Commission's Hybrid Hearing Procedures, please email ExecutiveStaff@coastal.ca.gov or call 415-904-5202.

The in-person hearing will be held at **Holiday Inn Downtown Sacramento, 300 J Street, Sacramento, CA 95814**. The Commission encourages participation virtually through video and teleconferencing to reduce our carbon footprint. **To view the live stream of the hearing, please visit <https://cal-span.org/>**

If you have any questions about the proposal, please contact Catherine Mitchell in the North Coast District office at NorthCoast@coastal.ca.gov or (707) 826-8950.

Sincerely,

Kate Huckelbridge, PhD
Executive Director

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Catherine Mitchell". The script is cursive and fluid.

Catherine Mitchell
Coastal Program Analyst

cc: Commissioners/File
Local Planning Dept.

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Prepared October 22, 2025 for the November 7, 2025 Hearing

TO: Coastal Commissioners and Interested Persons

FROM: Kate Huckelbridge, Executive Director
Melissa B. Kraemer, North Coast District Manager

SUBJECT: Executive Director's determination that the action of the County of Humboldt accepting the Commission's certification of LCP Amendment No. LCP-1-HUM-24-0034-1-Part A (Signs) is legally adequate.

On July 11, 2025, the Commission approved the County of Humboldt's Local Coastal Program (LCP) Amendment No. LCP-1-HUM-24-0034-1-Part A with suggested modifications. The Implementation Plan (IP) amendment related to signs and specifically amends Section 313-87.3 of Chapter 3 of Division 1 of Title III of Humboldt County Code with regulations pertaining to type, size, dimensions, placement, number, and design of signs. The regulations include details on the types of permitted signs addressed by the proposed regulations, descriptions and standards of each sign type, and zones where the specified sign types would be allowed.

The Commission suggested four modifications relating to protection of visual resources and public access, clarification of repair and maintenance activities, and clarification on permit requirements. Suggested Modification 1 modifies design standard requirements to include standards related to protection of public views. Suggested Modification 2 ensures that signs will not interfere with public access. Suggested Modification 3 clarifies sign maintenance activities. Suggested Modification 4 clarifies that new signs require a CDP unless exempt under 30610, adds reference to 30610(g) for destroyed billboards, deletes erroneous references, and includes other minor corrections, clarifications, and non-substantive changes necessary for internal IP consistency.

By its action adopting Ordinance No. 2771 on October 7, 2025, the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors has acknowledged and accepted the Commission's suggested modifications. Pursuant to section 13544 of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, the Executive Director has determined that the actions taken by the County are legally adequate to satisfy the terms and requirements of the Commission's certification.

Attachments

Att. 1: Notification of Effective Certification Letter (to send after Commission action)

Att. 2: Ordinance No. 2771

Att. 2: Resolution No. 25-149

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November 7, 2025

Reanne Meigan, Associate Planner
Long Range Planning
Humboldt County Planning and Building Department
3015 H Street
Eureka CA 95501

RE: Effective Certification of the County of Humboldt's Local Coastal Program
Amendment (LCPA) Application No. LCP-1-HUM-24-0034-Part A (Sign
Regulations)

Dear Reanne:

The Executive Director of the Coastal Commission has reviewed County Board of Supervisors' Ordinance No. 2771 for effective certification of the County's LCP Amendment No. LCP-1-HUM-24-0034-1-Part A, approved with suggested modifications by the Coastal Commission at its July 11, 2025 meeting. By its actions on October 7, 2025, the County formally acknowledged and accepted the Commission's certification of the LCP amendment including the suggested modifications. The County's acknowledgement agrees to issue coastal development permits in conformance with the certified LCP.

The Executive Director has found that the County's resolutions and ordinances fulfill the requirements of Section 13544(a) of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations. In accordance with Section 13544(b) of the regulations, the Director has determined that the County's actions are legally adequate. This determination was reported to the Coastal Commission at its meeting of November 7, 2025.

Commission approval and the amendment process are now complete. Commission staff remains available to assist you and your staff as you continue to develop and implement the County's LCP. If you have any questions, please contact me at (707) 826-8650 or Catherine.Mitchell@coastal.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Catherine Mitchell
Coastal Planner

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Certified copy of portion of proceedings, Meeting of "October 7, 2025"

SIGNS ORDINANCE – COASTAL. AMENDING SECTION 313-87.3 OF THE HUMBOLDT COUNTY CODE TO PROVIDE A UNIFORM SET OF STANDARDS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT, SITING, SIZE, MAINTENANCE, AND INSTALLATION OF SIGNS WITHIN THE UNINCORPORATED COASTAL AREAS OF HUMBOLDT COUNTY

ORDINANCE NO. 2771

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Humboldt ordains as follows:

SECTION 1. PURPOSE OF AMENDMENTS TO THE ZONING REGULATIONS

Title III, Division 1, Chapter 3 of the Zoning Regulations is hereby amended to allow the installation of Signs while protecting the public health, safety, and welfare of the residents of the coastal unincorporated areas of Humboldt County, protecting neighborhood quality, supporting tourism and economic development, and balancing the needs of property owners. This ordinance amends Section 313-87.3 of Chapter 3 of Division 1 of Title III of the County Code; relating to Signs and Nameplates.

SECTION 2. SIGNS

Subdivision 313-87.3 regarding Signs and Nameplates in Title III, Division 1, Chapter 3 of the Humboldt County Code is hereby amended by 313-87.3 as follows (modifications are shown as underlined text and deletions are shown as ~~striketrough~~):

87.3 SIGNS AND NAMEPLATES

87.3.1 Purpose. and Applicability The purpose of these regulations is to ensure: (1) ensure that signs within Humboldt County will not impair the public health, safety, and welfare by being excessively intrusive, and, promote public health, safety, and welfare, (2) that any permitted signs will maintain visual quality and will be compatible with nearby development. These regulations shall apply to the placement of any sign within the unincorporated area of Humboldt County. promote the use of signs that are of appropriate scale and compatible with nearby development and landscape, (3) promote the free flow of traffic and protect pedestrians, cyclists and motorists from injury and property damage caused by distracting signs, and (4) support business serving county residents, workers and visitors.

87.3.2 Applicability. These regulations shall be applicable to all signs in all zoning districts.

87.3.2.1 No Permit Required. No permit shall be required in the following circumstances.

87.3.2.1.1 Changes to legal existing sign faces.

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87.3.2.1.2 Installation of historic plaques.

87.3.2 Permitted Signs. Signs may be permitted in conformity with the following regulations:

87.3.2.1 Nameplates.

~~87.3.2.1.1 Shall be limited to a statement of the name, address and location of the occupant.~~

~~87.3.2.1.2 One (1) nameplate, not illuminated and not exceeding two square feet (2sf), appurtenant to any permitted use, shall be permitted in any residential zone.~~

~~87.3.2.1.3 One (1) nameplate, not illuminated and not exceeding twenty square feet (20sf), appurtenant to any permitted use, shall be permitted only in AE, TPZ and TC zones.~~

87.3.2.2 Property Sale Signs.

~~87.3.2.2.1 Two (2) signs, not illuminated, to advertise the sale of property on which it is displayed, and not exceeding six square feet (6sf) each, shall be permitted in any zone. Two such signs, not exceeding fifteen square feet (15sf), shall be permitted in any Commercial Zone. Two such signs, not exceeding twenty square feet (20sf), shall be permitted in any Industrial Zone. The Director may approve a Special Permit for additional signs if the applicant demonstrates a need, based upon site-specific physical conditions. (Former Section CZ#A314-33(B)(2)(a))~~

~~87.3.2.2.2 Signs, not illuminated and not exceeding one hundred square feet (100sf) in the aggregate, to advertise the sale of lots in the subdivision in which they are displayed shall be permitted with a Use Permit in any zone. (Former Section CZ#A314-33(B)(2)(b))~~

87.3.2.3 Appurtenant Signs. ~~Signs appurtenant to any permitted use which are not illuminated, are not over seventy-five square feet (75sf) in the aggregate, and not divided into more than three (3) single-faced or double-faced signs shall be permitted with a Special Use Permit in any zone except Residential Zones, in which such signs are not permitted. (Former Section CZ#A314-33(B)(3))~~

87.3.2.4 Signs in Commercial or Industrial Zones.

~~87.3.2.4.1 Signs, appurtenant to any permitted use, which do not exceed three square feet (3sf) per linear foot of the front lot line, shall be permitted in any commercial or industrial zone, subject to the limitations of this paragraph. Any lawfully existing lot shall be permitted to have a sign of at least fifty square feet (50sf) in size. The permitted sign(s) shall not exceed 300 square feet in the aggregate, and shall not be divided into more than six (6) single-faced or double-faced signs. (Former Section CZ#A314-33(B)(4)(a))~~

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87.3.2.4.2 Signs, whether appurtenant to a permitted use or not, and not limited as to size or number, may be permitted with a Special Permit in any commercial or industrial zone. (Former Section CZ#A314-33(B)(4)(b))

87.3.3 General Prohibitions on Signs. The following signs shall be prohibited in all zones except as provided in this Section. (Former Section CZ#A314-33(C))

87.3.3.1 No sign shall endanger the public health and safety by causing distractions to operators of motor vehicles on public rights-of-way, such as shall be caused by signs employing motion, sound, mechanical devices, blinkers, flashing lights, animation or unusual lighting. (Former Section CZ#A314-33(C)(1))

87.3.3.2 No sign shall be erected adjacent to any right-of-way in such a manner as to obstruct free and clear vision of operators of motor vehicles, or at any locations where, by reason of position, shape or color, such sign shall interfere with, obstruct the vision of, or be confused with any authorized traffic sign, signal or device, or which makes use of the words "stop," "danger," or any other word, phrase, symbol, or character in such manner as to interfere with, mislead or confuse motor vehicle operators. (Former Section CZ#A314-33(C)(2))

87.3.3.3 No red, green or amber lights or illuminated signs shall be placed in such a position that they could be confused with any authorized traffic sign, signal or device. (Former Section CZ#A314-33(C)(3))

87.3.3.4 No sign shall be erected in such a manner as to obstruct free and clear vision of pedestrian traffic on rights-of-way or to otherwise endanger pedestrians. (Former Section CZ#A314-33(C)(4))

87.3.3 Permitted Signs. Signs shall be permitted with a Coastal Development Permit in conformity with the following regulations, unless otherwise exempted under the California Public Resources Code Section 30610:

87.3.3.1 Nameplates. Nameplates are limited to a statement of the name, address and occupational designation of the occupant, and are not illuminated. Nameplates shall be principally permitted on existing structures appurtenant to any permitted use when conforming with all the following requirements:

87.3.3.1.1 In AE, TPZ and TC zones, one (1) nameplate not exceeding twenty square feet (20sf).

87.3.3.1.2 In any residential zone, one (1) nameplate, not exceeding two square feet (2sf).

87.3.3.1.3 In all other zones, one (1) nameplate not exceeding two square feet (20sf).

87.3.3.2 Temporary Signs. Temporary signs displayed for a limited period of time which do not exceed thirty-two (32) square feet in size shall be principally permitted in any zone when conforming with all the following requirements:

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87.3.3.2.1 Strings or individual banners, streamers, pennants and similar devices for business openings, temporary sales and events which are placed up to thirty (30) days prior and removed within ten (10) days after the opening.

87.3.3.2.2 Political signs pertaining to a scheduled election which are placed up to ninety (90) days prior to the scheduled election and removed within ten (10) days after election day.

87.3.3.2.3 Temporary signs advertising a special event being held by a public agency or non-profit organization which are placed up to thirty (30) days prior and removed within ten (10) days after the event.

87.3.3.3 Property Sale Signs. Signs, not illuminated, to advertise the sale of property on which it is displayed shall be permitted when conforming with all the following regulations and removed within fifteen (15) days of the sale or lease of the property:

87.3.3.3.1 In any zone, one (1) sign not exceeding six (6) square feet shall be principally permitted.

87.3.3.3.2 In any Commercial Zoning District, two (2) signs, not exceeding fifteen square feet (15sf) each shall be principally permitted.

87.3.3.3.4 In any Industrial Zoning District, two (2) signs, not exceeding twenty square feet (20sf) each shall be principally permitted.

87.3.3.3.5 Signs advertising the sale of lots in a subdivision shall be permitted with a Coastal Development Permit in any zone when not exceeding one hundred (100) square feet in the aggregate.

87.3.3.4 Appurtenant Signs. Signs, appurtenant to any permitted use to identify or advertise a place of business or a product when conforming to the following requirements and the standards in Section 87.3.3.4.5:

87.3.3.4.1 In Residential Zoning Districts, signs shall be prohibited unless otherwise allowed with a Use Permit.

87.3.3.4.2 In Commercial or Industrial Zoning Districts, when accompanied by a Commercial General or Industrial General Land Use Designation, signs shall be principally permitted.

87.3.3.4.3 In all other zones, up to three (3) single sided signs, or one (1) double sided and one (1) single sided sign not over seventy-five (75) square feet in the aggregate shall be permitted with a Special Permit, except when the site utilizes a Master Sign Plan consistent with Section 87.3.3.4.5.

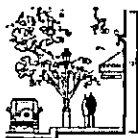
87.3.3.4.4 Signs not consistent with Section 87.3.3.4.5 shall be permitted with a Conditional Use Permit.

Appurtenant Sign Types

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Monument Signs



Under Canopy Signs



Freestanding Sign



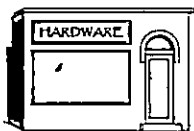
Awning Signs



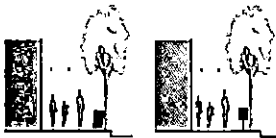
Window Signs



Projecting and Banner Signs



Wall Signs



A-frame & Standing Signs

87.3.3.4.5 Appurtenant Sign Table

<u>Sign Type</u>	<u>Sign Requirements</u>
<u>Monument</u>	<u>Quantity:</u> One (1) per frontage <u>Area:</u> Thirty-six (36) square feet <u>Width:</u> Twelve (12) feet maximum <u>Height:</u> Seven (7) feet maximum <u>Depth / Projection:</u> Two (2) feet maximum <u>Clearance:</u> Not applicable
<u>Projecting and Banner</u>	<u>Quantity:</u> One (1) per facade <u>Area:</u> Twenty-five (25) square feet <u>Width:</u> Eight (8) feet maximum <u>Height:</u> Eight (8) feet maximum <u>Depth / Projection:</u> Four (4) feet maximum <u>Clearance:</u> Eight (8) feet minimum <u>Distance to Curb:</u> Two (2) feet minimum
<u>Awning</u>	<u>Quantity:</u> One (1) per window <u>Area:</u> Not applicable <u>Width:</u> Width of facade <u>Height:</u> Not applicable <u>Depth / Projection:</u> Four (4) feet maximum <u>Clearance:</u> Eight (8) feet minimum <u>Valance Height:</u> Twelve (12) inches maximum <u>Distance to Curb:</u> Two (2) feet minimum
<u>Wall</u>	<u>Quantity:</u> Not Specified <u>Area:</u> Two (2) square foot per linear foot of Façade (not exceeding one hundred (100) square feet per facade) <u>Width:</u> Ninety (90) percent of the width of Façade <u>Height:</u> Roof line or parapet of the structure <u>Depth / Projection:</u> Eighteen (18) inches maximum <u>Clearance:</u> Seven (7) feet to sign edge minimum
<u>Window</u>	<u>Quantity:</u> Not applicable

<u>Sign Type</u>	<u>Sign Requirements</u>	
	<u>Area:</u> Not more than twenty-five (25) percent of glass per façade, not including seasonal displays or decorations <u>Width:</u> Not applicable <u>Height:</u> Not applicable <u>Depth / Projection:</u> Not applicable <u>Clearance:</u> Four (4) feet <u>Illumination:</u> Design features may consist of neon or other small diameter tubing illuminated by fluorescing gas	
<u>A-frame, Standing, & Feather Banners</u>	<u>A-Frame & Standing</u>	<u>Feather Banners</u>
	<u>Quantity:</u> Two (2) per business <u>Area:</u> Eight (8) square feet <u>Width:</u> Two (2) feet maximum <u>Height:</u> Four (4) feet maximum <u>Depth / Projection:</u> Cannot be placed within county right-of-way or obstruct ADA access <u>Clearance:</u> Not applicable	<u>Included in quantity limit</u> <u>Thirty (30) square feet</u> <u>Three (3) feet maximum</u> <u>Twelve (12) feet maximum</u> <u>Cannot be placed within county right-of-way or obstruct ADA access</u> <u>Not Applicable</u>
<u>Fuel Price Signs</u>	<u>Quantity:</u> Two (2) per business <u>Area:</u> Sixty-four (64) square feet <u>Width:</u> Eight (8) feet <u>Height:</u> Eighteen (18) feet <u>Depth/Projection:</u> not applicable <u>Clearance:</u> Eight (8) feet <u>Display:</u> Fuel pricing displays may consist of changeable LED numbers	
<u>Freestanding</u>	<u>Quantity:</u> One (1) per business <u>Area:</u> Sixty-four (64) square feet <u>Width:</u> Eight (8) feet <u>Height:</u> Eighteen (18) feet <u>Depth / Projection:</u> Not applicable	

<u>Sign Type</u>	<u>Sign Requirements</u>
	<u>Clearance:</u> <u>Eight (8) feet minimum</u> <u>Valance Height:</u> <u>Not applicable</u> <u>Distance to Curb:</u> <u>Not applicable</u>

87.3.3.5 Master Sign Plan. A plan to strategically coordinate signs appurtenant to any permitted use to identify or advertise multiple places of businesses for large sites, buildings, non-residential multi-tenant developments, or adjacent or adjoining properties or parcels.

87.3.3.5.1 Sites greater than one (1) acre, or with tenant spaces above the first floor, or any non-residential development, building, or property with four or more tenants must submit a Master Sign Plan;

87.3.3.5.2 The Master Sign Plan shall provide a coordinated approach to signage that indicates where signage is proposed and is consistent with the purpose of Section 87.3;

87.3.3.5.3 A Master Sign Plan shall be principally permitted if in accordance with Section 87.3.3.4.5;

87.3.3.5.4 A Special Permit shall be required if the Master Sign Plan proposes signage that is not in accordance with Section 87.3.3.4.5, which would allow:

87.3.3.5.4.1 Transfers of maximum sign areas between tenants on a site to allow the collective total sign area permitted for the entire site to be pooled and re-allocated between tenants;

87.3.3.5.4.2 Deviation from the total number of each type of sign allowed; and

87.3.3.5.4.3 Deviation from the maximum size of signs permitted.

87.3.3.6 Murals. Murals, decorations, and design elements on the exterior of a building that do not advertise a product, business, or service shall be principally permitted and are not subject to the requirements of this section. Advertisement includes text displaying the name of a business, text displaying the name of a product, text publicizing a service, business-specific logos, and product-specific logos.

87.3.3.7 Creative Signs. Signs with no more than forty percent of the total sign area digitally printed and of unique design, thoughtfulness, imagination, inventiveness, and spirit, which deviate from the standards in this section while minimizing adverse impacts.

87.3.3.7.1 Review. Creative Signs shall be reviewed and approved by the Zoning Administrator and may require modifications to the proposed Creative Sign including limits on allowed sign types, area, dimensions, placement, materials, and other sign design features.

87.3.3.7.2 Permit Requirements. Creative Signs shall be permitted with a Special Permit.

87.3.3.7.3 Design Standards. Creative Signs shall meet all of the General Design Standards and incorporate three or more of the Sign Features, Materials, and Contextual Criteria provided below.

87.3.3.7.3.1 General Design.

87.3.3.7.3.1.1 The sign constitutes a substantial aesthetic improvement to the site and has a positive visual impact on the surrounding area; and

87.3.3.7.3.1.2 The sign is of unique design, and exhibits a high degree of thoughtfulness, imagination, inventiveness, and spirit; and

87.3.3.7.3.1.3 The sign is of a higher creative, artistic, and/or sculptural nature than the average sign typically found in Humboldt County; and

87.3.3.7.3.1.4 The sign provides strong graphic character through the imaginative use of graphics, color, texture, quality materials, scale, and proportion.

87.3.3.7.3.2 Sign Features, Materials, and Contextual Criteria.

87.3.3.7.3.2.1 Materials of a higher quality than typically used for signs in Eureka (e.g., stone, sculptural steel, sandblasted wood, gold leaf, hand-painted content with an artistic mural-like component).

87.3.3.7.3.2.2 Projecting, recessed, or cut-out text (e.g., push-through illuminated acrylic letters, routed letters, routed metal).

87.3.3.7.3.2.3 Use of natural features to creatively display a business name (e.g., trimmed hedges, etched rock features, botanical arrangements).

87.3.3.7.3.2.4 Creative and unique use of clearly visible high-quality landscaping with an area greater than the minimum required for the sign or site, whichever is more.

87.3.3.7.3.2.5 Clearly visible three-dimensionality where a notable proportion of the structure or form of the sign includes multiple deviations from a parallel plane (e.g., a sphere, a half-sphere, sculptural elements, a fully three-dimensional beer mug).

87.3.3.7.3.2.6 Sign design successfully emulates the architecture of the building (e.g., a sign with roof-like covering that matches the general design of the roof of the building it serves).

87.3.3.7.3.2.7 Highly irregular multi-dimensional sign shape (e.g., a sign that has at least five or more straight sides, a sign that has a few straight sides and multiple variable rounded sides, a sign with an unusually disproportionate height-to-width ratio).

87.3.3.7.3.2.8 At least 50 percent of the sign area includes custom artistic illustrations.

87.3.3.7.3.2.9 Sign shape includes inventive representation of the use, name, or logo of the structure or business (e.g., a fish-shaped sign for a fishing store).

87.3.3.8 Existing Billboards. It is the objective of this section to provide regulations to implement provisions to regulate Billboards consistent with the certified Land Use Plan Area Plans.

87.3.3.8.1 Existing Billboard, an advertising display affixed to any post within 660 feet of a state highway, freeway, or historic highway or freeway that was lawfully erected in compliance with state laws and local ordinances in effect at the time of its erection;

87.3.3.8.2 Failure to provide the Planning and Building Department an active and compliant Outdoor Advertising Display Permit when such permit is required by state law is evidence that the structure does not qualify as an existing billboard which may require removal of the structure consistent with the Outdoor Advertising Act;

87.3.3.8.3 Placement shall not be permitted unless otherwise allowable:

87.3.3.8.3.1 Placement includes, but is not limited to, the following activities:

87.3.3.8.3.1.1 Raising the height of the Display from ground level.

87.3.3.8.3.1.2 Alteration of existing size dimensions of approved physical configuration.

87.3.3.8.3.1.3 Relocating all or a portion of a Display.

87.3.3.8.3.1.4 Adding a back-up Facing to a single Facing Display.

87.3.3.8.3.1.5 Turning the direction of a Facing.

87.3.3.8.3.1.6 Addition of an electrical box.

87.3.3.8.3.1.7 Adding illumination or a changeable message, with the exception of light boxes.

87.3.3.8.3.1.8 Increasing any dimension of a Facing except when adding an extension to an outside dimension of a Display as incident to the copy for a temporary period up to three years.

87.3.3.8.3.1.9 Re-erection of a destroyed advertising display where it meets the requirements in section 87.3.3.8.3.2.

87.3.3.8.3.1.10 The maintaining and the erecting, constructing, posting, painting, printing, tacking, nailing, gluing, sticking, carving or otherwise fastening, affixing or making visible any advertising display on or to the ground of any tree, bush, rock, fence, post, wall, building, structure or thing when not performed incident to the change of an advertising message or customary maintenance, as defined below, of the advertising display.

87.3.3.8.3.1.10.1 "Customary maintenance" means any activity performed on a Display for the purpose of actively maintaining the Display in its existing approved physical configuration and size dimensions at the specific location approved on the application for State Outdoor Advertising Permit, or at the specific location officially recorded in the records of the Department for a legally placed Display, for the duration of its normal life. Customary maintenance includes the following activities: (1) Changing the advertising message; (2) Adding an extension to an outside dimension of a Display as incident to the copy for a temporary period up to three years; (3) The sale, lease, or transfer of the Display or Permit; and (4) Adding a light box. Customary maintenance that constitutes "development" under Public

Resources Code section 30106 requires a Coastal Development Permit unless otherwise exempted under the California Public Resources Code Section 30610.

87.3.3.8.3.1.11 Maintenance using materials other than those materials and dimension of supporting members found on the existing sign.

87.3.3.8.3.2 Placement of a destroyed advertising display shall be allowable if the following conditions are met:

87.3.3.8.3.2.1 An advertising display has been destroyed by a disaster, as defined in section 30610(g)(2)(A) of the Coastal Act, to the extent it loses functionality so as to be rendered useless and needs to be re-erected; and

87.3.3.8.3.2.2 The destroyed advertising display shall conform to applicable existing zoning requirements and, in addition, shall not be located on public land, public easements on Natural Resource zoned properties, within bodies of water, flood hazard areas, riparian corridors, sensitive habitats, scenic resources or wetlands; and

87.3.3.8.3.2.3 A Conditional Use Permit with a term limit of 15 years has been approved; and

87.3.3.8.3.2.4 A building permit has been issued.

87.3.3.8.4 Unauthorized placement activities will be declared a public nuisance as defined by Section 351-3 and considered a Category 4 Violation as defined by Section 352-3(h) and Section 352-6.

87.3.3.8.5 The County may declare its intent to require removal of an existing billboard by providing the existing billboard owner notice of such intent a minimum of seven (7) years prior to actual removal of the sign. Upon the expiration of the designated time period, the County may require removal in accordance with the requirements of the Outdoor Advertising Act. The removal of the billboard structure and restoration of the site to its original condition shall be completed within 30 days of compensation. If the permit holder and property owner fail to remove the billboard structure and restore the site within the designated time period, the billboard shall be declared a public nuisance as defined by Section 351-3 and considered a Category 4 Violation as defined by Section 352-3(h) and Section 352-6.

87.3.3.9 Directional Signs.

87.3.3.9.1 **Signs Permitted.** Directional signs and/or guide signs shall be located in any zone to indicate directions to public recreational areas, visitor serving facilities, and any other facilities for which the Director has determined that such a sign is necessary for the public convenience and/or safety.

87.3.3.9.2 **Location.** Signs shall be located only along arterial roadways and higher order streets.

87.3.3.9.3 Design Criteria.

87.3.3.9.3.1 Directional signs shall contain only the name of the use(s), a directional arrow or a directional statement, and the approximate distance to the use(s).

87.3.3.9.3.2 Where feasible, directional signs shall be designed to accommodate more than one use.

87.3.3.9.3.3 The display surface of any such sign shall not exceed twenty-four by twenty-four inches (24"x24") for each use, with a maximum aggregate area of display surface not to exceed 100 square feet.

87.3.3.9.4 Permit Required. A Special Permit is required for placement of a directional sign in any zone.

87.3.3.10 Design Standards.

87.3.3.10.1 Illumination.

87.3.3.10.1.1 Signs in non-residential zoning districts may be internally or externally illuminated except where specifically prohibited.

87.3.3.10.1.2 Signs in Residential Zoning Districts shall only be externally illuminated and must be located at least fifty (50) feet from any residence.

87.3.3.10.1.3 Light sources must be steady, stationary, and static in color and shall utilize full-cutoff lighting, downward casting, shielding, visors etc.

87.3.3.10.1.4 Lighting shall be limited as follows:

a) During hours between sunset and sunrise, luminance is limited to 100 candela per square meter.

b) Each sign must either be designed to achieve this standard or have a light sensing device that will automatically adjust the brightness of the display as the natural ambient light conditions change.

87.3.3.10.1.5 The light source for externally illuminated signs must be shielded and positioned so that light is only directed at the face of the sign and does not spill beyond where it is needed.

87.3.3.10.1.6 Lighting shall use the lowest light level necessary to be visible from the property line.

87.3.3.10.1.7 Lighting shall only be operated between sunrise and sunset or 30 minutes before opening and after closing.

87.3.3.10.1.8 Exposed bulbs are not permitted except as part of a Creative Sign Permit.

87.3.3.10.1.9 Design features consisting of neon or other small diameter tubing illuminated by fluorescing gas is not allowed as part of any type of sign, except as allowed as window signage in Section 87.3.3.4.5.

87.3.3.10.2 Protection of Public Views. Any permitted sign shall be (a) sited and designed to protect views to and along the ocean and scenic coastal areas, (b) visually compatible with the character of surrounding areas, (c) subordinate to the character of its setting in Coastal Scenic Areas, and (d) found consistent with applicable Coastal View Area standards required under the coastal land use plan for the sign location.

87.3.3.11 Prohibited Signs. The following signs and sign materials are prohibited:

87.3.3.11.1 Digital, Animated or Changeable Copy Signs. Signs that include any part that appears to rotate, flash, blink, move, change color, emit sound, or change intensity, except for approved fuel price signs, standard barber poles, time and temperature signs that are located in commercial and industrial zones. This includes but is not limited to electronic message boards, large television or projector screens, etc. Except when placed on such property by the public agency having jurisdiction or expressly authorized by such public agency.

87.3.3.11.2 New Billboards. A structure with a flat surface upon which an advertisement is placed or affixed to any post within 660 feet of a state highway or freeway, except as described by Section 87.3.3.8.3.2.

87.3.3.11.3 Off-Premise Signs. Signs that are not appurtenant to a use associated with the property in which the sign is located.

87.3.3.11.4 Decorative Signs. Banner signs, yard signs, and inflatable signs, except when used as a temporary sign consistent with Section 87.3.3.2 (Temporary Signs).

87.3.3.11.5 Hazardous Signs. Signs adversely affecting traffic control or safety. Any sign that creates a traffic safety hazard by interfering with a individual's sight distance, including signs visible from any public road, street or right of way containing colors or reflective paint that blinds the vision of drivers, or signs which simulate or imitate the appearance of any traffic sign or signal, or which makes use of the words "STOP," "GO," "SLOW," "TURN HERE," "DANGER," or contain other words, phrases symbols or characters otherwise likely to interfere with, mislead or confuse drivers.

87.3.3.11.6 Obsolete Signs. Any appurtenant sign face identifying a use or activity that has not occupied the site for more than six months. Any off-premise sign face advertising an activity that has not taken place for more than six months. Any sign frame that has not been utilized within five years.

87.3.3.11.7 Signs on Public Roads. Signs, including Digital, Animated or Changeable Copy Signs are not permitted on any public road or public road right of way, except as permitted by the Department of Public Works and Caltrans. This includes, but is not limited to, permanent signs, portable signs, trailer mounted signs, and vehicle mounted signs.

87.3.3.11.8 Signs on Public Property. Signs, including Digital, Animated or Changeable Copy Signs are not permitted on any public property; except as permitted by the public agency having jurisdiction or expressly authorized by such public agency that has obtained all other necessary permits for placement of such signage.

87.3.3.11.9 Signs on Natural Features and Other Structures. Signs affixed to or painted on trees, rocks, or other natural features, or on utility poles, street sign poles, traffic signal equipment and poles, or garbage receptacles.

87.3.3.11.10 Roof Signs. Any sign erected, constructed and placed on or over the roof of a building or of any architectural feature to which it is affixed.

87.3.3.11.11 Dilapidated Signs. Signs that have been declared a nuisance as defined by Section 351-3 and must be removed due to inadequate maintenance, dilapidation, or abandonment.

87.3.3.11.12 Signs Blocking Public Access. Signs that interfere with public access inconsistent with the public access policies of the Coastal Act or the County's certified Local Coastal Program.

SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This ordinance shall take effect upon the Coastal Commission Executive Director's determination that the County's acceptance is consistent with the Commission's action, and the Executive Director reports the determination to the Commission at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

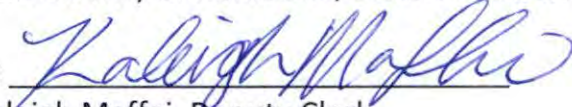
PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 7th day October 2025 on the following vote, to wit:

AYES: Supervisors: -- Arroyo, Madrone, and Wilson
NOES: Supervisors: -- Bohn and Bushnell
ABSENT: Supervisors: -- None


Michelle Bushnell, Chair
Board of Supervisors of the County of
Humboldt, State of California

(SEAL)
ATTEST:

Tracy Damico, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
of the County of Humboldt, State of California

By: 
Kaleigh Maffei, Deputy Clerk

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Certified copy of portion of proceedings, Meeting of October 7, 2025

RESOLUTION NO. 25- 149

Record No. LRP-2024-19066

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT MAKING THE REQUIRED FINDINGS TO ADOPT THE COASTAL VERSION OF THE SIGNS ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 313-87.3 OF THE HUMBOLDT COUNTY CODE.

WHEREAS, California Government Code Section 65850, et seq. authorizes counties to regulate land use, and to adopt and amend general plans and zoning and building ordinances for such purposes, and sets forth procedures governing the adoption and amendment of such ordinances; and

WHEREAS, amending the Zoning Ordinance to update the sign regulations was initiated to implement the General Plan Scenic Resources Element, which directs the County to amend the Signs and Nameplates Ordinance to implement adopted policies for off-premise billboards and to consider other revisions to ensure community compatibility as set forth in General Plan Implementation Measure SR-IM2; and

WHEREAS, the ordinance amendment was developed to achieve consistency with the requirements of the Coastal Act, to meet the needs of County residents as determined through workshops and comments, and to incorporate recommendations of the California Coastal Commission; and

WHEREAS, on April 9, 2024, the Board of Supervisors adopted the Coastal Signs Ordinance No. 2736 and directed staff to transmit the ordinance to the California Coastal Commission for certification; and

WHEREAS, on July 11, 2025, the Coastal Commission conditionally certified the Coastal Signs Ordinance if modified in accordance with the suggested changes set forth in the Adopted Findings report of that same date, which are incorporated in the revised ordinance (Attachment 4); and

WHEREAS, on Tuesday, September 23, 2025, a Notice of Public Hearing on proposed zoning amendments regarding signs was published in the Eureka Times-Standard, a newspaper of general circulation in Humboldt County, for the Board of Supervisors meeting of October 7, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors held a public hearing on the California Coastal Commission Certified Coastal Signs Ordinance on October 7, 2025.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS THAT:

CONSISTENCY WITH THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)

1. FINDING: The requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act have been met. The Humboldt County Board of Supervisors has considered the project and finds the proposed project is exempt from environmental review pursuant to Section 15251(f), Exemption for Certified State Regulatory Programs, of the State CEQA Guidelines.

EVIDENCE: a) Section 15251(f), Exemption for Certified State Regulatory Programs of the State CEQA Guidelines, identifies that approval of the ordinance by the California Coastal Commission is the functional equivalent of the environmental review process required by CEQA. The ordinance was certified by the California Coastal Commission on July 11, 2025.

PUBLIC INTREST

2. FINDING: Humboldt County Code Section 312-50.3.1 stipulates that amendments to the zoning code must be in the public interest. The proposed amendment is in the public interest.

EVIDENCE: a) The ordinance creates clear permitting procedures, guidance for reconstructing existing billboards, specified performance standards for principally permitted signs, and creates a more streamlined review of proposed signage in all zones.

b) The type of signage and project area will determine the potential for permitting pathways. Proposed projects meeting performance standards would be principally permitted, while signage that does not meet the set performance standards will require discretion to determine its impacts.

CONSISTENCY WITH THE GENERAL PLAN

3. FINDING: Humboldt County Code Section 312-50.3.2 states that amendments to the zoning code must be consistent with the General Plan. The

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proposed Coastal Signs Ordinance is consistent with the General Plan.

- EVIDENCE:** a) The Coastal Signs Ordinance implements the General Plan Scenic Resources Element, which directs the County to amend the Signs and Nameplates Ordinance to implement adopted policies for off-premise billboards and to consider other revisions to ensure community compatibility as set forth in General Plan Implementation Measure SR-IM2.

CONSISTENCY WITH THE COASTAL ACT

- 4. FINDING:** The proposed changes to the Zoning Ordinance are in conformity with the policies of Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 30200) of the Coastal Act. Chapter 3 of the Coastal Act sets forth policies regarding the following issues:
- a) Access (including provisions for access with new development projects, public facilities, lower cost visitor facilities, and public access).
 - b) Recreation (including protection of water-oriented activities, ocean- front land protection for recreational uses, aquacultural uses, and priority of development purposes).
 - c) Marine Resources (including protecting biological productivity, prevent hazardous waste spills, diking, filling and dredging, fishing, revetments and breakwaters, and water supply and flood control).
 - d) Land Resources (including environmentally sensitive habitats, agricultural lands, timberlands, and archaeological resources).
 - e) Development (including scenic resources, public works facilities, safety, and priority of coastal dependent developments).
 - f) Industrial Development (including location and expansion, use of tanker facilities, oil and gas development and transport (both onshore and off), and power plants).

- EVIDENCE:** a) **Access:** The proposed ordinance prohibits signs on public property unless placed by the public agency having jurisdiction or expressly authorized by such public agency. Signs are prohibited within a public street, road, or right-of-way, or placed on any other public property. In addition, the ordinance stipulates that signs that interfere with public access inconsistent with the public access policies of the

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Coastal Act or the County's certified Local Coastal Program are prohibited. Signs of increased scale would be required to undergo a discretionary permit review to ensure that all the requirements of the Humboldt County Code, Local Coastal Plan, and the Coastal Act have been met.

- b) **Recreation:** The proposed ordinance would set guidelines to regulate signage within the Coastal Zone. Any signage that is deemed to have an environmental impact or adversely affect public access, thus recreation, would require a Coastal Development Permit. The proposed amendment will not negatively impact coastal recreation.
- c) **Marine Resources:** Proposed signage will be reviewed and may require a Coastal Development Permit in accordance with an associated Local Coastal Plan for consistency with the California Coastal Act. This review would ensure that the proposed work has been assessed and is not expected to cause any significant impacts to marine resources.
- d) **Land Resources:** The ordinance provides guidelines for protection of land resources by reviewing permits for proposed signage on individual properties and ensuring that they do not negatively impact the environment. Additional review may be required with a Special Permit and Coastal Development Permit. Principally permitted signs must undergo a building permit review, which requires planner review and approval prior to issuance. Project review would ensure that environmentally sensitive habitats, agricultural lands, timberlands, and archaeological resources are not negatively impacted.
- e) **Development:** Project review would be conducted as part of a building permit application for any new development and may require a discretionary permit and a Coastal Development Permit in accordance with an associated Local Coastal Plan for consistency with the California Coastal Act. Therefore, the proposed amendment will not negatively impact scenic resources, public works facilities, safety, and coastal dependent developments.
- f) **Industrial Development:** Signs will be required to be consistent with the designated land uses and in conformance with development

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standards for any given property and will not be approved in a manner that would inhibit industrial development within coastal zone.

CONSISTENCY WITH STATE HOUSING LAW

5. FINDING: Humboldt County Code Section 312-50.3.4 requires any proposed amendment must not reduce the residential density for any parcel below that utilized by the California Department of Housing and Community Development in determining compliance with housing element law unless specific findings are made.

EVIDENCE: a) As the Coastal Signs Ordinance sets design guidelines for signs, it will not reduce residential density for any parcel utilized by the California Department of Housing and Community Development in determining compliance with housing element law and will not limit the number of housing units which may be constructed on an annual basis.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors hereby:

1. Adopts the findings set forth in this resolution; and
2. Repeals Ordinance 2736; and
3. Adopts the Coastal Signs Ordinance as modified and certified by the California Coastal Commission; and
4. Directs the Planning Department to notify the Coastal Commission of the County's acceptance of the Commission's suggested modifications so that Commission Executive Director can determine that the acceptance is consistent with the Commission's action, and the Executive Director may report the determination to the Commission at the next regularly scheduled public meeting, at which point the modified Ordinance will become effective; and
5. Directs the Clerk of the Board to publish the Post-Adoption Summary (Attachment 3) of the Coastal Signs Ordinance within 15 days of its adoption.

The foregoing Resolution is hereby passed and adopted after review and consideration of all the evidence on **October 7, 2025**.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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Dated: 10/7/25



Supervisor Michelle Bushnell, Chair
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors

Adopted on motion by Supervisor Wilson, seconded by Supervisor Arroyo, and the following vote:

AYES: Supervisors -- Arroyo, Madrone, and Wilson

NAYS: Supervisors -- Bohn and Bushnell

ABSENT: Supervisors -- None

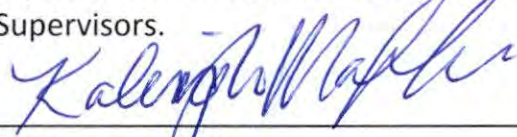
ABSTAIN: Supervisors -- None

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)

County of Humboldt)

I, TRACY DAMICO, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, County of Humboldt, State of California, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a full, true, and correct copy of the original made in the above-entitled matter by said Board of Supervisors at a meeting held in Eureka, California as the same now appears of record in my Office.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Seal of said Board of Supervisors.



By Kaleigh Maffei
Deputy Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of
the County of Humboldt, State of California