

**CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION**

NORTH COAST DISTRICT OFFICE  
1385 8TH STREET, SUITE 130  
ARCATA, CA 95521  
VOICE (707) 826-8950



# W11b

**LCP-1-HUM-25-0060-1**

**(Humboldt County Outdoor Lighting)**

**February 4, 2026**

**EXHIBITS**

[Exhibit 1 – Maps of six LUP plan areas](#)

[Exhibit 2 – Resolutions of LCPA transmittal \(Resolution No. 25-130 & 25-169\)](#)

[Exhibit 3 – Ordinance adopting IP Amendment \(Ordinance No. 2768\)](#)

# Humboldt County LUP Planning Areas

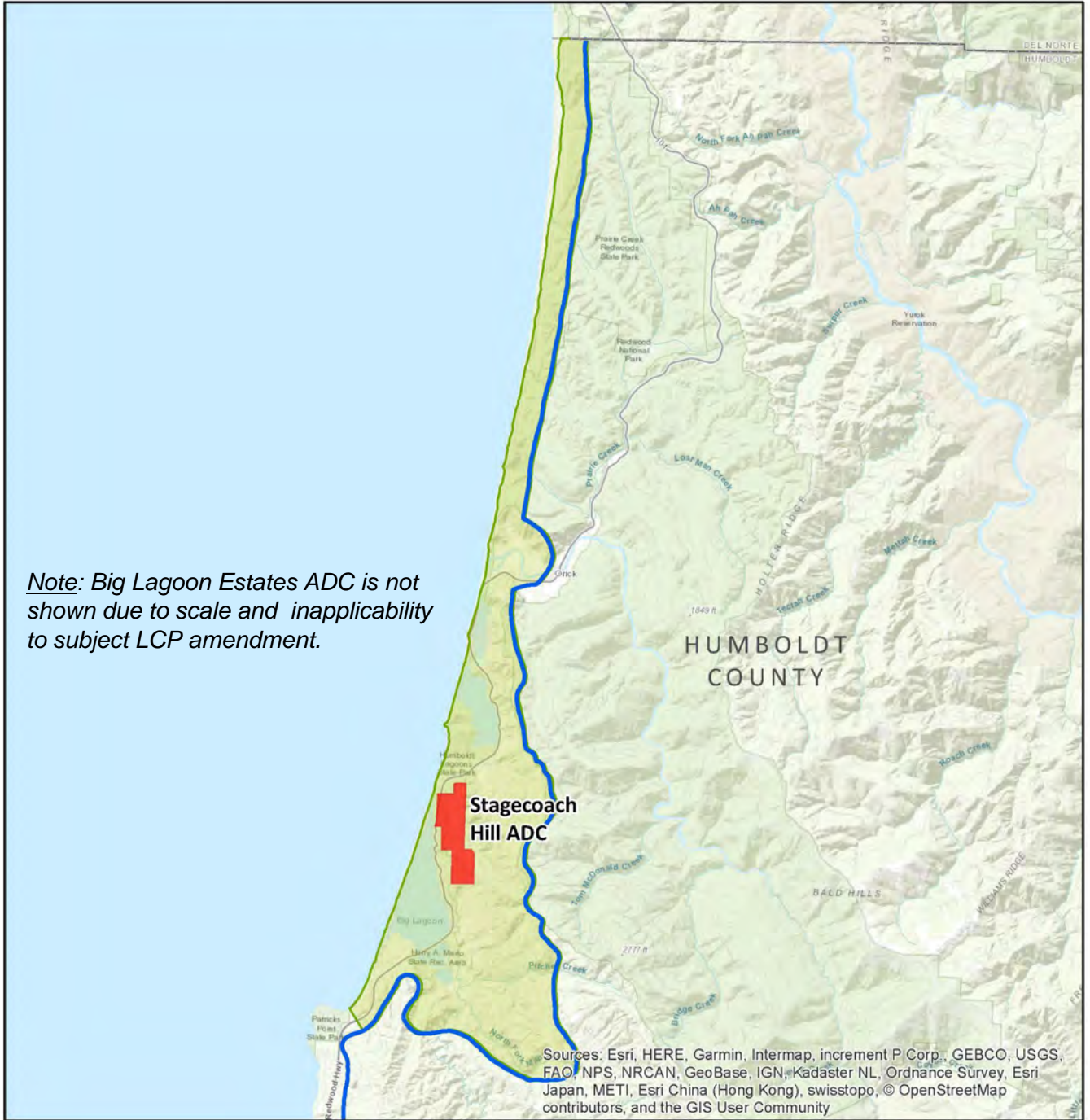


**EXHIBIT NO. 1**  
**LCP-1-HUM-25-0060-1**  
**(Humboldt County Outdoor Lighting )**  
**Land Use Plan (LUP) Maps**

— Coastal Zone Boundary

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #d9ead3; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> North Coast Area Plan LUP Area   | <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #f4cccc; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Humboldt Bay Area Plan LUP Area |
| <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #f4cccc; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Trinidad Area Plan LUP Area      | <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #cfe2f3; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Eel River Area Plan LUP Area    |
| <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #f4cccc; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> McKinleyville Area Plan LUP Area | <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #cfe2f3; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></span> South Coast Area Plan LUP Area  |

# Humboldt County LUP Planning Areas



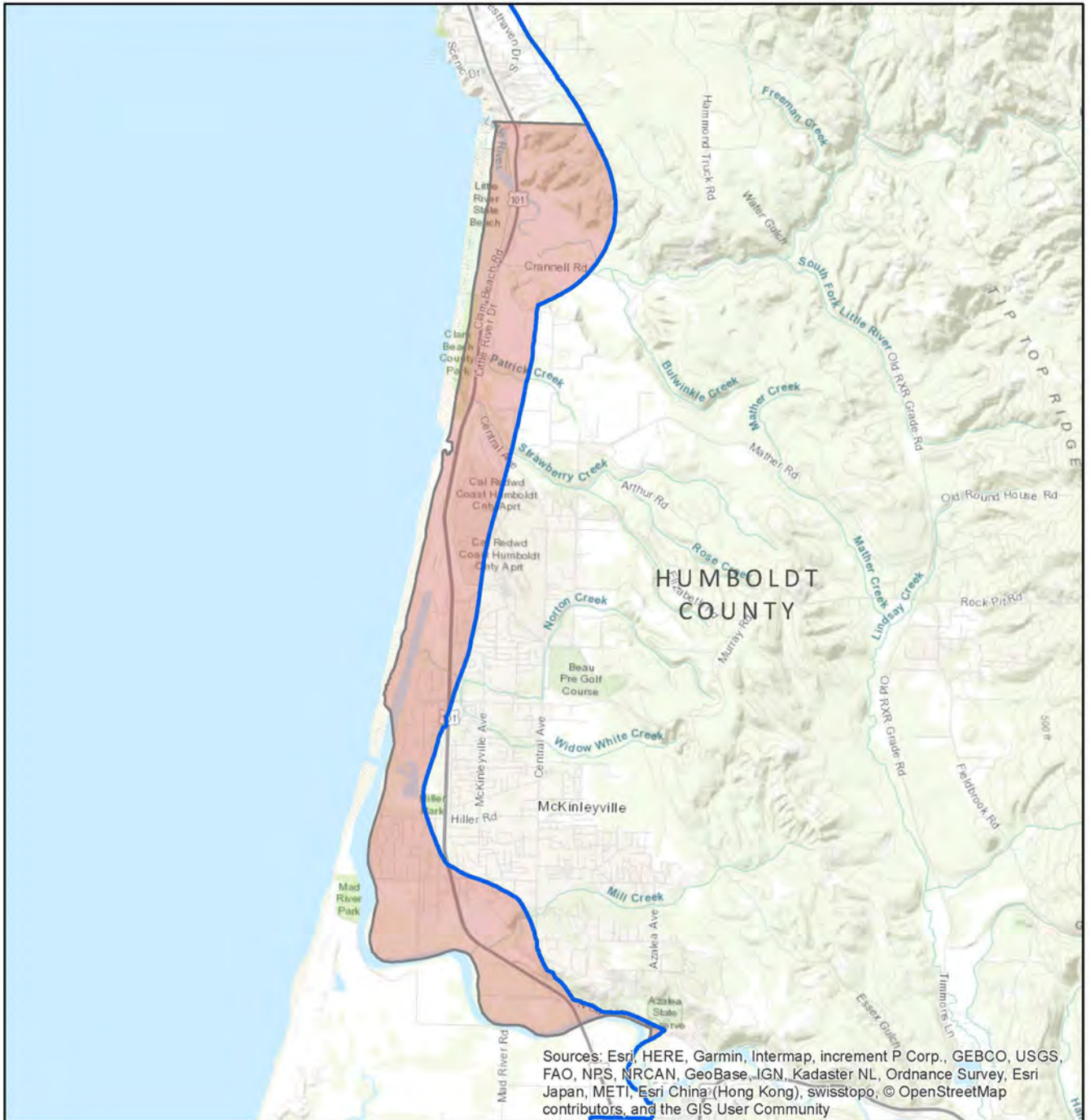
- Coastal Zone Boundary
- North Coast Area Plan LUP Area

# Humboldt County LUP Planning Areas



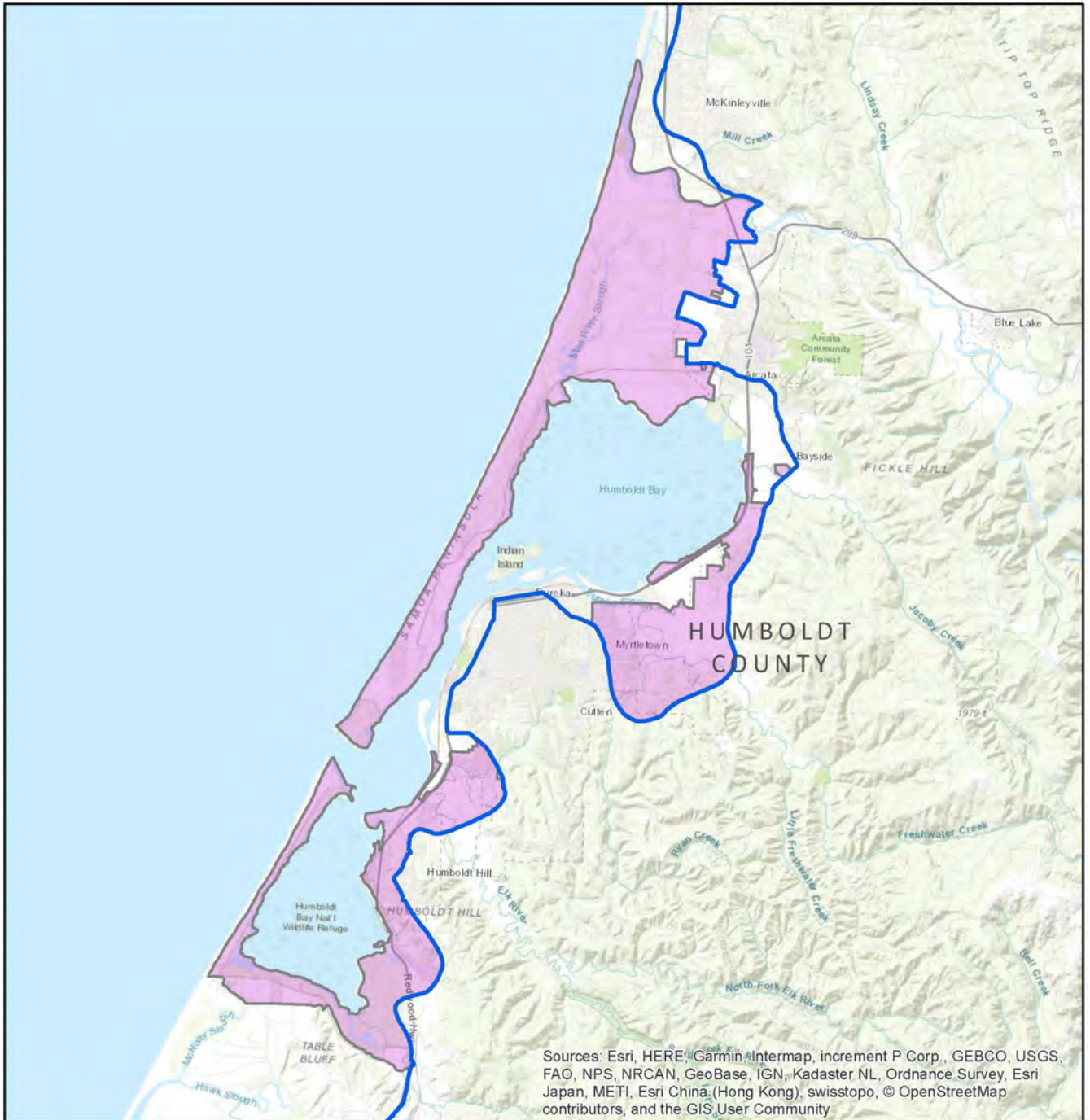
- Coastal Zone Boundary
- Trinidad Area Plan LUP Area

# Humboldt County LUP Planning Areas



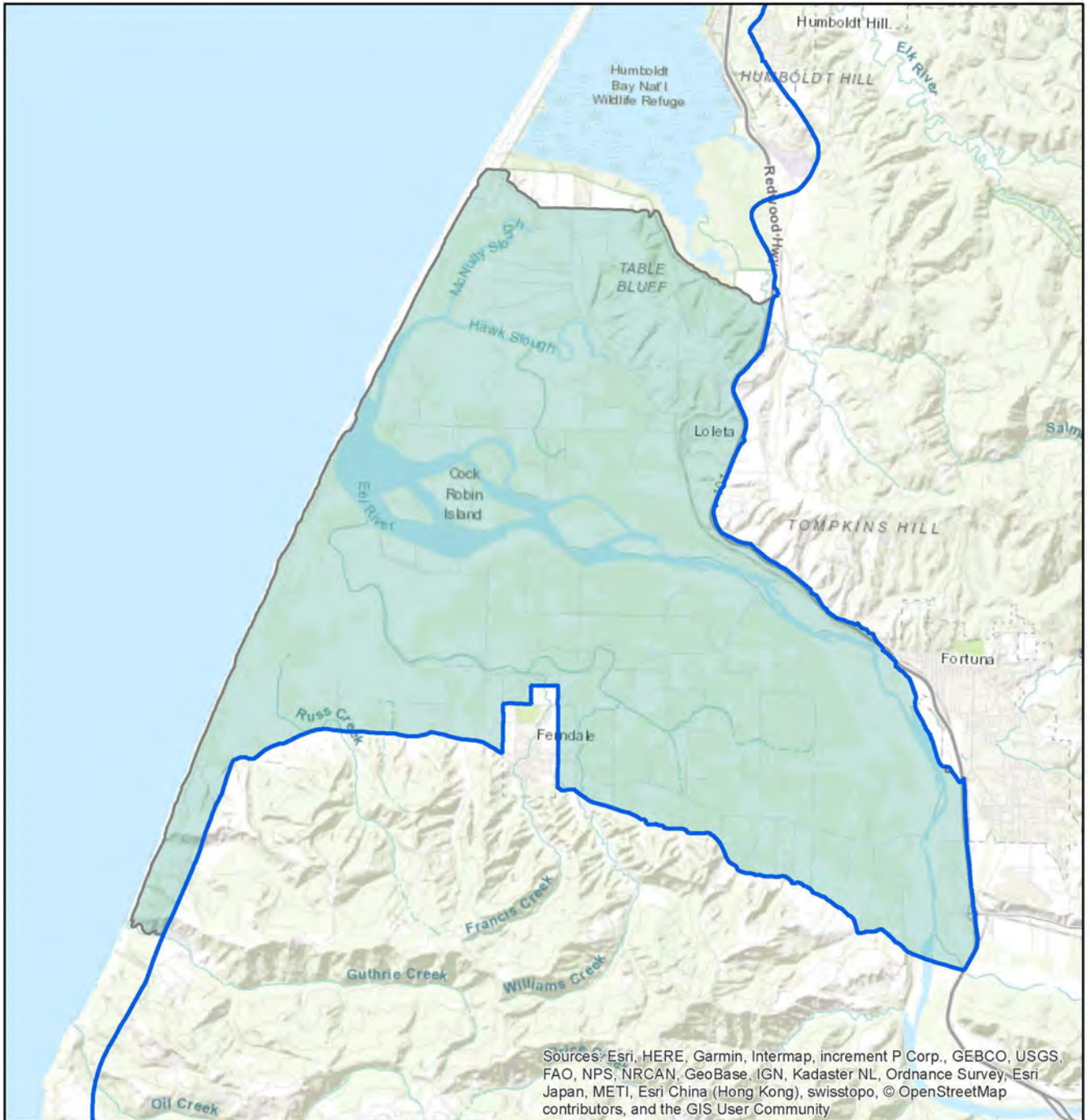
- Coastal Zone Boundary
- McKinleyville Area Plan LUP Area

# Humboldt County LUP Planning Areas



- Coastal Zone Boundary
- Humboldt Bay Area Plan LUP Area

# Humboldt County LUP Planning Areas



— Coastal Zone Boundary

■ Eel River Area Plan LUP Area

# Humboldt County LUP Planning Areas



— Coastal Zone Boundary

■ South Coast Area Plan LUP Area

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

Certified copy of portion of proceedings, Meeting of August 19, 2025

RESOLUTION NO. 25- 130

Record No. LRP-2023-18849

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT MAKING THE REQUIRED FINDINGS TO ADOPT THE COASTAL VERSION OF THE OUTDOOR LIGHTING ORDINANCE.**

**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**, Humboldt County initiated the zoning ordinance changes herein to set design guidelines for outdoor lighting to protect unincorporated Humboldt County from light pollution and light trespass; and

**WHEREAS**, the Humboldt County Planning Commission held a Public Workshop on the Outdoor Lighting Ordinance on March 20, 2025, recommending that Staff incorporate revisions to the draft ordinance on a basis of deliberations of the Commission and public comment received; and

**WHEREAS**, on April 30, 2025, a Notice of Public Hearing on the proposed Outdoor Lighting Ordinance was published in the Eureka Times-Standard, a newspaper of general circulation in Humboldt County, for the Planning Commission meeting of May 15, 2025; and

**WHEREAS**, on May 15, 2025, the Humboldt County Planning Commission held a public hearing on the Coastal Outdoor Lighting Ordinance and with a 6-0 vote recommended the Board of Supervisors adopt the proposed draft Coastal Outdoor Lighting Ordinance; and

**WHEREAS**, on August 5, 2025, a notice was published in the Eureka Times-Standard, a newspaper of general circulation in Humboldt County, for adoption of the Outdoor Lighting Ordinance by the Board of Supervisors at their meeting of August 19, 2025; and

**WHEREAS**, the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors will consider that the Outdoor Lighting Ordinance is exempt from environmental review pursuant to Section §15251(f) Exemption for Certified State Regulatory Programs of the State CEQA Guidelines; and

**WHEREAS**, on August 19, 2025, the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors held a public hearing on the Coastal Outdoor Lighting Ordinance.

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

Certified copy of portion of proceedings, Meeting of August 19, 2025

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

**The Board hereby adopts the following findings and evidence:**

**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:** No significant and unavoidable impacts on the environment would occur as a result of the proposed project. The project was determined to be exempt from further environmental review pursuant to §15251(f) *Exemption for Certified State Regulatory Programs* of CEQA Guidelines. This ordinance sets design standards for exterior lighting to reduce light pollution. The certification and implementation of the Local Coastal Program to protect the night sky and sensitive coastal resources is consistent with the requirements of the specific CEQA exemption.

**PUBLIC INTEREST**

**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 intent of the ordinance is to set design guidelines for outdoor lighting and maintain dark skies. Humboldt County is known for its dark skies and the Coastal Outdoor Lighting Ordinance seeks to protect and preserve the dark skies by limiting light trespass and light pollution, and is therefore in the public interest.

**CONSISTENCY WITH THE COASTAL ACT**

**3. 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:

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

Certified copy of portion of proceedings, Meeting of August 19, 2025

- 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 with set design guidelines to limit light trespass and light pollution for outdoor lighting within the Coastal Zone. No impact to coastal access is anticipated because a lighting plan would be required to be submitted as part of a building permit for any new development.
  - b) **Recreation:** The proposed ordinance would set design guidelines to limit light trespass and light pollution for outdoor lighting within the Coastal Zone. The proposed amendment will not negatively impact coastal recreation.
  - c) **Marine Resources:** Proposed outdoor lighting will be located within areas designated for development. A lighting plan would be required to be submitted as part of a building permit for any new development 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.

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

Certified copy of portion of proceedings, Meeting of August 19, 2025

- d) **Land Resources:** The amendment protects agricultural land and timberland because it sets guidelines for outdoor lighting to limit light trespass and light pollution.  
Impacts to cultural and tribal cultural resources and impacts to environmentally sensitive habitat areas are not anticipated and remain protected.
- e) **Development:** Proposed outdoor lighting will be located within areas designated for development. A lighting plan would be required to be submitted as part of a building permit for any new development and may require 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 development in the coastal zone.
- f) **Industrial Development:** Proposed outdoor lighting will be located within areas designated for development. A lighting plan would be required to be submitted as part of a building permit for any new development and may require 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 coastal industrial development.

**CONSISTENCY WITH STATE PLANNING LAW**

**4. 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. The proposed amendment does not limit the number of housing units which may be constructed on an annual basis.

**EVIDENCE:**

- a) The Coastal Outdoor Lighting Ordinance does not reduce residential density for any parcel utilized by the California Department of Housing and Community Development in determining compliance with housing element law.  
The Coastal Outdoor Lighting Ordinance sets design guidelines for outdoor lighting and will not impact the residential density of Humboldt County.

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

Certified copy of portion of proceedings, Meeting of August 19, 2025

**PURPOSE OF ORDINANCE**

**5. FINDING:** The primary purpose of an ordinance is to establish local laws and regulations, often addressing issues not covered by state or federal laws. Ordinances are used to regulate activities, fix legal rights and duties, or prohibit certain actions within a municipality or county.

**EVIDENCE:** a) The Coastal Outdoor Lighting Ordinance sets design guidelines for outdoor lighting which is currently not regulated. Humboldt County is known for its dark skies and the Coastal Outdoor Lighting Ordinance seeks to protect and preserve the dark skies by limiting light trespass and light pollution.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board of Supervisors hereby:

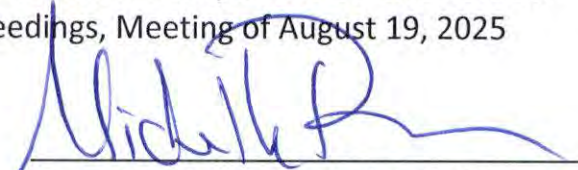
1. Finds that the proposed amendments to the Coastal Zoning Regulations conform to and appropriately carry out the policies of each of the Humboldt County's six Coastal Plans and Chapter 3 of the Coastal Act, and further finds that the proposed Zoning Regulations will be carried out in accordance with the Coastal Act; and
2. Finds that the changes to the Coastal Zoning Regulations will become effective only upon certification by the Coastal Commission; and
3. Directs and hereby provides notice to the California Coastal Commission and its staff that modifications to the proposed amendments to the Zoning Regulations required by the Coastal Commission for certification shall be brought back to the Board of Supervisors for consideration at a future public hearing prior to certification by the Coastal Commission; and
4. Directs Planning and Building Department staff to transmit the Outdoor Lighting Ordinance, including all necessary supporting documentation, to the California Coastal Commission as an amendment to the certified Local Coastal Program for their review and certification in accordance with Public Resources Code Section 30514.

The foregoing Resolution is hereby passed and adopted after review and consideration of all the evidence on **August 19, 2025**.

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

Certified copy of portion of proceedings, Meeting of August 19, 2025

Dated: 8/19/2025

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Supervisor Michelle Bushnell, Chair  
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors

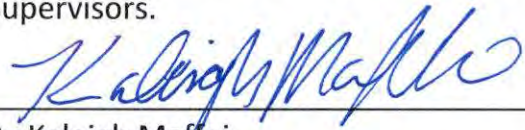
Adopted on motion by Supervisor Wilson, seconded by Supervisor Arroyo, and the following vote:

- AYES: Supervisors -- Arroyo, Wilson, and Madrone
- 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

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**  
Certified copy of portion of proceedings, Meeting of August 19, 2025  
Direction Amended for California Coastal Commission Acted on **November 4, 2025**

RESOLUTION NO. 25-169

Record No. LRP-2023-18849

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT MAKING THE REQUIRED FINDINGS TO ADOPT THE COASTAL VERSION OF THE OUTDOOR LIGHTING ORDINANCE**

**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**, Humboldt County initiated the zoning ordinance changes herein to set design guidelines for outdoor lighting to protect unincorporated Humboldt County from light pollution and light trespass; and

**WHEREAS**, the Humboldt County Planning Commission held a Public Workshop on the Outdoor Lighting Ordinance on March 20, 2025, recommending that Staff incorporate revisions to the draft ordinance on a basis of deliberations of the Commission and public comment received; and

**WHEREAS**, on April 30, 2025, a Notice of Public Hearing on the proposed Outdoor Lighting Ordinance was published in the Eureka Times-Standard, a newspaper of general circulation in Humboldt County, for the Planning Commission meeting of May 15, 2025; and

**WHEREAS**, on May 15, 2025, the Humboldt County Planning Commission held a public hearing on the Coastal Outdoor Lighting Ordinance and with a 6-0 vote recommended the Board of Supervisors adopt the proposed draft Coastal Outdoor Lighting Ordinance; and

**WHEREAS**, On August 5, 2025, a notice was published in the Eureka Times-Standard, a newspaper of general circulation in Humboldt County, for adoption of the Outdoor Lighting Ordinance by the Board of Supervisors at their meeting of August 19, 2025; and

**WHEREAS**, The Humboldt County Board of Supervisors will consider that the Outdoor Lighting Ordinance is exempt from environmental review pursuant to Section §15251(f) Exemption for Certified State Regulatory Programs of the State CEQA Guidelines; and

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**  
Certified copy of portion of proceedings, Meeting of August 19, 2025  
Direction Amended for California Coastal Commission Acted on November 4, 2025

**WHEREAS**, on August 19, 2025, the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors held a public hearing on and adopted the Coastal Outdoor Lighting Ordinance; and

**WHEREAS**, the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors amended the resolution for the Coastal Outdoor Lighting Ordinance on November 4, 2025, and directed staff to transmit the ordinance to the California Coastal Commission for certification.

**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:** No significant and unavoidable impacts on the environment would occur as a result of the proposed project. The project was determined to be exempt from further environmental review pursuant to §15251(f) *Exemption for Certified State Regulatory Programs* of CEQA Guidelines. This ordinance sets design standards for exterior lighting to reduce light pollution. The certification and implementation of the Local Coastal Program to protect the night sky and sensitive coastal resources is consistent with the requirements of the specific CEQA exemption.

**PUBLIC INTEREST**

- 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 intent of the ordinance is to set design guidelines for outdoor lighting and maintain dark skies. Humboldt County is known for its dark skies and the Coastal Outdoor Lighting Ordinance seeks to protect and preserve the dark skies by limiting light trespass and light pollution, and is therefore in the public interest.

**CONSISTENCY WITH THE COASTAL ACT**

- 3. 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).
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  - 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 with set design guidelines to limit light trespass and light pollution for outdoor lighting within the Coastal Zone. No impact to coastal access is anticipated because a lighting plan would be required to be submitted as part of a building permit for any new development.
  - b) **Recreation:** The proposed ordinance would set design guidelines to limit light trespass and light pollution for outdoor lighting within the Coastal Zone. The proposed amendment will not negatively impact coastal recreation.
  - c) **Marine Resources:** Proposed outdoor lighting will be located within areas designated for development. A lighting plan would be required to be submitted as part of a building permit for any new development and may require a Coastal Development Permit in

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

Certified copy of portion of proceedings, Meeting of August 19, 2025

Direction Amended for California Coastal Commission Acted on **November 4, 2025**

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 amendment protects agricultural land and timberland because it sets guidelines for outdoor lighting to limit light trespass and light pollution. Impacts to cultural and tribal cultural resources and impacts to environmentally sensitive habitat areas are not anticipated and remain protected.
- e) **Development:** Proposed outdoor lighting will be located within areas designated for development. A lighting plan would be required to be submitted as part of a building permit for any new development and may require 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 development in the coastal zone.
- f) **Industrial Development:** Proposed outdoor lighting will be located within areas designated for development. A lighting plan would be required to be submitted as part of a building permit for any new development and may require 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 coastal industrial development.

**CONSISTENCY WITH STATE PLANNING LAW**

**4. 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. The proposed amendment does not limit the number of housing units which may be constructed on an annual basis.

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**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**  
Certified copy of portion of proceedings, Meeting of August 19, 2025  
Direction Amended for California Coastal Commission Acted on November 4, 2025

**EVIDENCE:** a) The Coastal Outdoor Lighting Ordinance does not reduce residential density for any parcel utilized by the California Department of Housing and Community Development in determining compliance with housing element law.  
The Coastal Outdoor Lighting Ordinance sets design guidelines for outdoor lighting and will not impact the residential density of Humboldt County.

**PURPOSE OF ORDINANCE**

**5. FINDING:** The primary purpose of an ordinance is to establish local laws and regulations, often addressing issues not covered by state or federal laws. Ordinances are used to regulate activities, fix legal rights and duties, or prohibit certain actions within a municipality or county.

**EVIDENCE:** a) The Coastal Outdoor Lighting Ordinance sets design guidelines for outdoor lighting which is currently not regulated. Humboldt County is known for its dark skies and the Coastal Outdoor Lighting Ordinance seeks to protect and preserve the dark skies by limiting light trespass and light pollution.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board of Supervisors does hereby:

1. Find that the proposed amendments to the Coastal Zoning Regulations conform to and appropriately carry out the policies of each of Humboldt County's six Coastal Plans and Chapter 3 of the Coastal Act, and further finds that the proposed Zoning Regulations will be carried out in accordance with the Coastal Act; and
2. Find that the changes to the Coastal Zoning Regulations will become effective only upon certification by the Coastal Commission; and
- ~~3. Direct and hereby provides notice to the California Coastal Commission and its staff that modifications to the proposed amendments to the Zoning Regulations required by the Coastal Commission for certification shall be brought back to the Board of Supervisors for consideration at a future public hearing prior to certification by the Coastal Commission; and~~
- ~~4. Direct the Clerk of the Board to publish the Post-Adoption Summary of the Ordinance within fifteen (15) days after its passage; and~~

**3. Certify that this local coastal program amendment is intended to be carried in a manner**

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**  
Certified copy of portion of proceedings, Meeting of August 19, 2025  
Direction Amended for California Coastal Commission Acted on **November 4, 2025**

fully in conformity with the Coastal Act as required under public resources code 30510;  
and

4. Direct Planning and Building Department staff to transmit the Coastal Outdoor Lighting Ordinance (25-\_\_\_), including all necessary supporting documentation, to the California Coastal Commission as an amendment to the certified Local Coastal Program for their review and certification in accordance with Public Resources Code Section 305143.

The foregoing Resolution is hereby passed and adopted after review and consideration of all the evidence on ~~August 19, 2025~~ November 4, 2025.

Dated: 11/4/2025

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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, Bohn, Bushnell, Madrone, and Wilson

NAYES: Supervisors: -- None

ABSENT: Supervisors: -- None

ABSTAIN: Supervisors: -- None

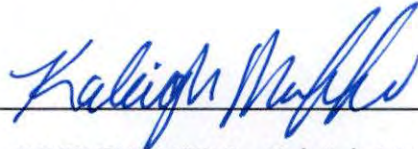
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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.

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**  
Certified copy of portion of proceedings, Meeting of August 19, 2025  
Direction Amended for California Coastal Commission Acted on **November 4, 2025**

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



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NIKKI TURNER By Kaleigh Maffei

Deputy Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of  
the County of Humboldt, State of California

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**  
Certified copy of portion of proceedings, Meeting of ***“August 19, 2025”***

**OUTDOOR LIGHTING ORDINANCE – COASTAL adding section 313 – 105.1 and amending sections 313 – 138, 313 – 141, 313 – 142, 313 – 147, and 313 – 154 of Chapter 3 of Division 1 of Title III of the County Code**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2768**

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

**SECTION 1. PURPOSE OF AMENDMENTS TO THE ZONING REGULATIONS**

The purpose of the Coastal Outdoor Lighting Ordinance is to implement the Humboldt County General Plan by setting outdoor lighting standards in the zoning ordinance to protect unincorporated Humboldt County from light pollution and light trespass.

**SECTION 2. OUTDOOR LIGHTING**

Add Section 313-105.1 setting standards for outdoor lighting in Title III, Division 1, Chapter 3 of the Humboldt County Code as follows (additions are shown in underline text):

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**  
Certified copy of portion of proceedings, Meeting of *"August 19, 2025"*

313-105.1 Outdoor Lighting.

105.1.1 Purpose. These outdoor lighting regulations are intended to:

105.1.1.1 Establish reasonable design standards for outdoor lighting to minimize light pollution, while maintaining nighttime safety, utility, security, and the enjoyment of the night sky;

105.1.1.2 Minimize light trespass by limiting outdoor lighting that is misdirected;

105.1.1.3 Require lighting to be focused on the developed environment to protect the natural environment from the damaging effects of lighting trespass;

105.1.1.4 Provide a process to address degradation of the nighttime visual environment and the night sky; and

105.1.1.5 Provide a process to address light trespass.

105.1.2 General Regulations. The following regulations shall apply to all outdoor lighting, unless specified elsewhere:

105.1.2.1 To minimize the effects of light trespass and light pollution, outdoor lighting shall:

105.1.2.1.1 Be illuminated only when the area to be illuminated is actively being used or to address safety needs;

105.1.2.1.2 Limit the area to be illuminated to the area of the property engaged in a permitted activity; and

105.1.2.1.3 Be shielded and directed downward.

105.1.2.2 All outdoor lighting fixtures shall:

105.1.2.2.1 Be fully shielded to preclude light glow above the fixture and from going beyond the intended area of illumination.

105.1.2.2.2 Be directed downward and not toward:

105.1.2.2.2.1 Neighboring properties, the public right-of-way, environmentally sensitive habitat areas (ESHA), or the sky.

105.1.2.2.3 Not create light trespass or spillover onto neighboring properties or ESHA.

105.1.2.3 Other County laws or ordinances may have different requirements for specific

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**  
Certified copy of portion of proceedings, Meeting of **"August 19, 2025"**

applications and may conflict with these regulations. In such cases, those laws or ordinances shall govern.

**105.1.3 Prohibited Lighting.**

105.1.3.1 The following lighting systems are prohibited:

105.1.3.1.1 Aerial lasers;

105.1.3.1.2 Search-light style lights;

105.1.3.1.3 Mercury vapor lights;

105.1.3.1.4 Flashing lights;

105.1.3.1.5 Low-pressure sodium fixtures; and

105.1.3.1.6 Any lighting that creates distraction to traveling public.

105.1.3.2 A Conditional Use Permit may allow for lighting systems that are prohibited above to be used for a Special Event if the following findings can be made:

105.1.3.2.1 The lighting system is necessary for the proposed use.

105.1.3.2.2 The lighting system will not spill onto neighboring properties.

**105.1.4 Exempt Lighting.** The following outdoor lighting fixtures are exempt provided there is no light trespass onto neighboring properties, the night sky, or ESHA:

105.1.4.1 Temporary holiday decorations;

105.1.4.2 Light fixtures used to illuminate flags, subject to Federal and State flag code, shall use a very narrow beam of light for the purpose of confining the light to the object of interest and minimizing light trespass;

105.1.4.3 String lights with a CCT of 2700K or less, provided they are turned off by 10:00 PM;

105.1.4.4 Emergency lighting; and

105.1.4.5 Motion detector lighting fixtures provided:

105.1.4.5.1 Maximum time the light is on after being triggered is five (5) minutes; and

105.1.4.5.2 Light cannot be triggered from outside of the subject property.

**105.1.5 Lighting for Residential Use.** All outdoor lighting fixtures for residential use shall be subject to subsection 105.1.2.

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105.1.5.1 Maximum Illumination. Outdoor lighting fixtures shall not exceed 1100 lumens.

105.1.6 Lighting for Agricultural/Commercial/Industrial Use. All outdoor lighting fixtures for agricultural, commercial, and/or industrial use shall be installed and operated in conformance with subsection 105.1.2 and the subsection below:

105.1.6.1 Maximum Illumination.

105.1.6.1.1 Outdoor lighting fixtures shall not exceed 3200 lumens.

105.1.6.1.2 When adjacent to a residential area, lighting at the property boundary line shall not exceed 0.3 foot-candles.

105.1.6.1.3 Lighting along the public right-of-way, shall not exceed 1.0 foot-candle.

105.1.6.2 Height Limit. Lights mounted on poles or structures intended primarily for mounting lights shall not exceed a mounting height of 20 feet high.

105.1.6.3 Parking Lots. Parking lot lighting shall utilize bulbs that have a CCT of 2700K or less between sunset and sunrise.

105.1.6.4 Modifications. The standards within subsection 105.1.6 may be modified with the approval of a Conditional Use Permit.

105.1.7 Athletic Field Lighting. Lighting used to illuminate the field of play shall be subject to a Conditional Use Permit.

105.1.8 Conformance Review. Any new or modified development project shall submit a lighting plan as part of the building permit application. The applicant shall, as a part of the lighting plan, submit sufficient information to enable the County Planning and Building Department to determine whether the proposed lighting complies with the provisions of this section. The lighting plan shall include the following:

105.1.8.1 A site plan indicating the proposed location of all outdoor lighting fixtures that are included in the development; and

105.1.8.2 A cut sheet of the fixture(s) to be used, showing the shielding, and light dispersion, which will be shown in footcandles and CCT.

105.1.8.3 The project lighting plan shall be coordinated with any associated landscaping plan to prevent site planning conflicts.

105.1.9 Pre-existing Lighting. Any outdoor lighting fixture that was installed prior to the adoption of these regulations and was consistent with zoning regulations at the time of

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installation may remain in its installed form subject to the following:

105.1.9.1 Should the County receive a complaint for a lighting nuisance, the Planning Director may require that the light be shielded, filtered, redirected, replaced with a less intense light source, removed or a combination thereof, to eliminate light trespass or light pollution.

105.1.9.2 Substantial Change of Use and/or Alterations. If a property with non-compliant lighting substantially changes or expands uses after the effective date of these regulations, then any new outdoor lighting associated with the substantial change, expansion, and/or alteration must be compliant with this section.

**SECTION 3. DEFINITIONS**

Sections 313-138, 313-141, 313-147 and 313-154 are hereby amended and added to as follows (additions are shown in underline text):

**313-138 DEFINITIONS (C)**

**Correlated color temperature:** Correlated color temperature (abbreviated 'CCT') in lighting refers to the warmth or coolness of a light source, measured in Kelvin (K), where lower numbers indicate warmer, yellowish light and higher numbers indicate cooler, bluer light.

**313-141 DEFINITIONS (F)**

**Foot-candle:** "Foot-candle" (abbreviated 'fc') means a unit of illuminance defined as one lumen per square foot.

**313-147 DEFINITIONS (L)**

**Light fixture:** Light fixture means a complete lighting unit consisting of a lamp or lamps, the lamp holder, reflector, lens, diffuser, ballast and/or other components and accessories, together with parts designed to distribute the light, to position and protect the lamps, and to connect the lamps to the power supply. Sometimes referred to as a luminaire or light source.

**Lighting nuisance:** Lighting nuisance refers to light pollution that significantly impacts or interferes with a person's enjoyment of their property or their health. It can be caused by misdirected or excessive lighting, or light trespass from neighboring properties. A lighting nuisance must be a continual event. A one-time offensive activity is not sufficient to be deemed a lighting nuisance.

**Light pollution:** Light pollution means any artificial light emitted into the atmosphere, either directly or indirectly, which may have a disruptive effect on natural cycles and inhibits the observation of stars and planets.

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**Light trespass:** Light trespass means any artificial light emitted by a lighting installation which shines beyond the boundaries of the property on which the installation is sited. Included, but not limited to, any light from a light fixture onto neighboring property that interferes with viewing of the night sky or eliminates the ability to have darkness on the adjacent property, or shines into or onto neighboring windows, properties or structures.

**Lumen:** A standard unit that measures the amount of visible light emitted by a light source.

**313-154 DEFINITIONS (S)**

**Shielded:** Shielded refers to a light fixture having a housing or optics that prevents a direct view of the light source from normal viewing angles. Types of shielding include:

- a. "Fully shielded" A lighting design where the light source is completely covered by a barrier, preventing any light from escaping upwards or sideways, ensuring that all illumination is directed downwards, minimizing light pollution, and light trespass.
- b. "Unshielded" A lighting design where there is no barrier covering the light source, which causes the light to spread out in all directions.

**SECTION 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

This ordinance shall become effective immediately upon certification by the Coastal Commission unless modifications to the proposed ordinance are required by the Coastal Commission for certification, in which case they must first be brought back to the Board of Supervisors for consideration at a future public hearing prior to certification by the Coastal Commission.

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**PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED** this 19<sup>th</sup> day of August on the following vote, to wit:


AYES: Supervisors: -- Arroyo, Wilson, and Madrone  
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