

DRAFT HUMBOLDT REGIONAL CEQA GHG EMISSIONS ANALYSIS COMPLIANCE CHECKLIST

Humboldt Regional Climate Action Plan Consistency Checklist for Future Development¹

Version: August 2025

Purpose: this checklist can be utilized to demonstrate less-than-significant project/plan CEQA GHG emissions impacts when 1) CEQA review is required and 2) all the applicable checklist questions are complied with

The Humboldt Regional Climate Action Plan (RCAP) established 2030 and 2045 greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions targets and provided measures and actions to establish a trajectory towards achieving those targets. The RCAP applies to all jurisdictions across Humboldt County, including the unincorporated County and the Cities of Arcata, Blue Lake, Eureka, Ferndale, Fortuna, Rio Dell, and Trinidad. GHG reduction measures contained in the RCAP that are applicable to future development are summarized in the following CEQA GHG Emissions Compliance Checklist (referred to herein as the CEQA GHG Checklist). The purpose of this CEQA GHG Checklist is to assist with determining project or plan consistency with the RCAP and provide a streamlined (i.e., qualitative) CEQA GHG emissions analysis process for proposed future projects and plans that are subject to discretionary review and trigger environmental review pursuant to CEQA.

This CEQA GHG Checklist can be utilized for plans/projects with an opening year between the present and 2030. The RCAP will be updated by 2030 in order to meet the requirements for a qualified CAP for the 2045 carbon neutrality Statewide target. Plans/projects with post-2030 buildout would need to be assessed against an updated CEQA GHG Checklist that incorporates the additional measures in an updated RCAP or prepare a quantitative analysis consistent with the procedures outlined in the CEQA GHG Emissions Thresholds and Guidance Document.²

This CEQA GHG Checklist contains questions that reflect RCAP measures and actions required to be implemented on a project-by-project basis, depending on the project land use type, to confirm that the specified GHG emissions targets identified in the RCAP are achieved. Implementation of these measures and actions would demonstrate that future development is consistent with RCAP assumptions and assist Humboldt in achieving its identified GHG reduction targets.

Projects or plans that are consistent with the RCAP (as determined through the use of this CEQA GHG Checklist) may rely on the programmatic RCAP Environmental Impact Report for the respective project- and cumulative-

¹ Future development refers to any project or plan that is subject to discretionary review and triggers environmental review pursuant to CEQA. Projects with a Notice of Preparation (NOP), submitted application packages, and/or other official documentation that predate the adoption of the RCAP and CEQA GHG Emissions Thresholds are not required to utilize this checklist and/or the CEQA GHG Emissions Thresholds, at the discretion of the CEQA Lead Agency.

² The Humboldt CEQA GHG Emissions Thresholds and Guidance document on preparation of quantitative GHG emissions analyses is available at <https://humboldt.gov/DocumentCenter/View/136964/Humboldt-Final-CEQA-GHG-Thresholds-and-Guidance-Rpt?bidId=>

level GHG emissions impacts analysis. Inconsistency with any of the applicable by-land-use-type³ measures and actions in this CEQA GHG Checklist would make a Plan/Project inconsistent with the overall RCAP. **Projects requiring CEQA analysis that are identified as not consistent with the RCAP through this CEQA GHG Checklist shall prepare a project-specific analysis of GHG emissions, including quantification of existing and projected GHG emissions compared to Humboldt CEQA GHG Emissions Thresholds, and incorporate the RCAP measures and actions in this CEQA GHG Checklist to the greatest extent feasible.**⁴

The process for determining whether a project or plan may utilize this CEQA GHG Checklist for streamlining or whether a quantitative GHG emissions analysis is required is illustrated in Figure 1, below. The relevant lead agency retains the discretion on a project-by-project basis to consider whether a project/plan's construction- and/or operation-related GHG emissions require more detailed quantitative CEQA GHG emissions analysis consistent with the procedures outlined in the CEQA GHG Emissions Thresholds and Guidance Document.

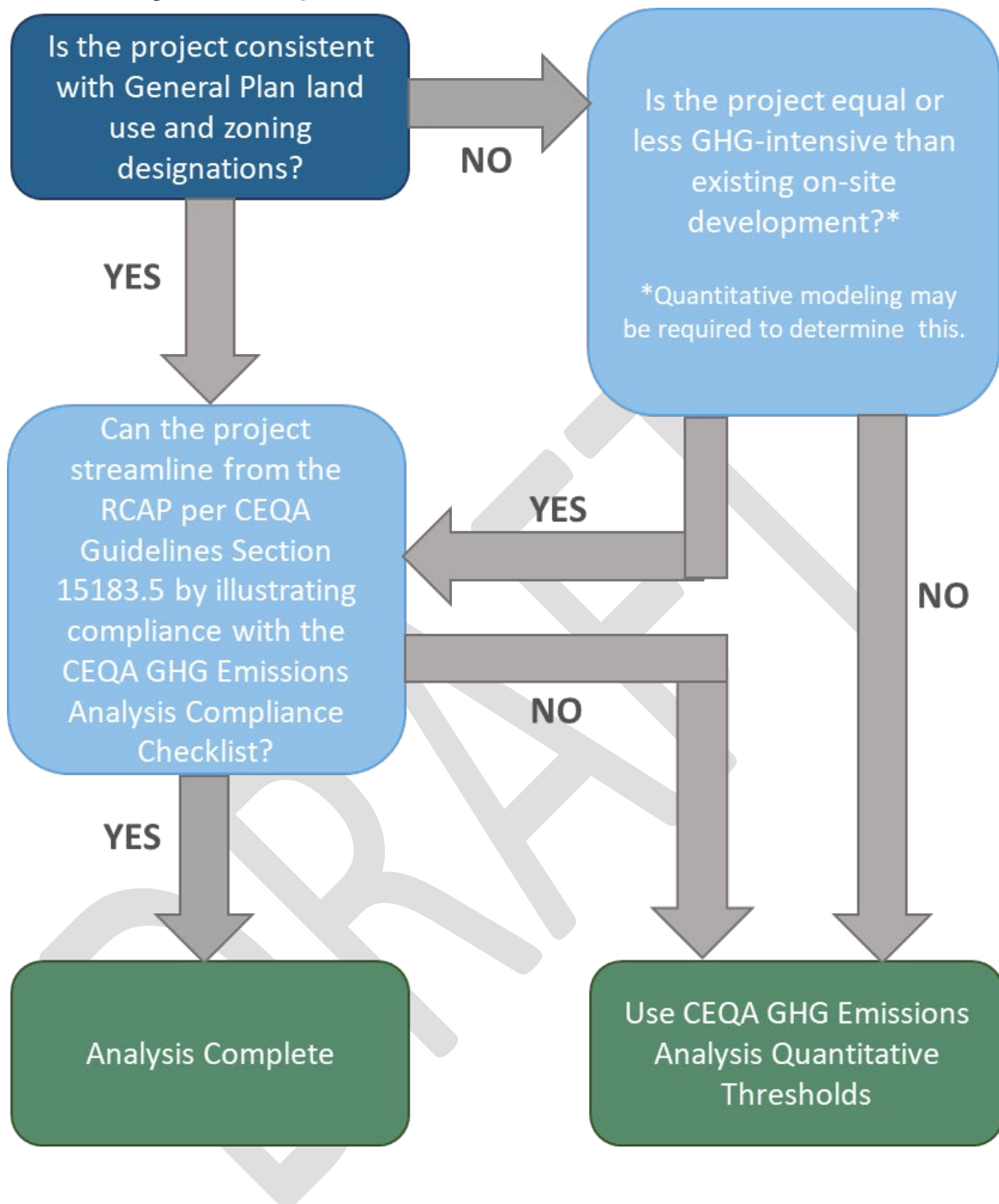
APPLICATION SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS

This CEQA GHG Compliance Checklist is required to accompany the application materials submitted to the applicable lead agency for all projects and plans subject to CEQA review that are not deemed statutorily or categorically exempt. The CEQA GHG Checklist is designed to assist the applicant or the lead agency's environmental consultant in identifying the minimum RCAP requirements specific to a proposed project or plan. However, it may be necessary to supplement the completed CEQA GHG Checklist with supporting information, materials, calculations, or certifications to demonstrate compliance with RCAP. The completed CEQA GHG Checklist shall be included in the respective project or plan description and referenced in the respective conditions of approval.

³ Land-use types that may streamline CEQA GHG emissions analysis using this CEQA GHG Checklist include residential, commercial (e.g., retail, office, mixed-use developments, restaurants, hotels, shopping centers, entertainment venues, schools, hospitals, research centers, etc.), and municipal uses. Industrial projects and emissions generated by those sources are regulated by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) and are not under the County or individual cities' direct operational control. Therefore, this checklist does not apply to industrial projects.

⁴ The Humboldt CEQA GHG Emissions Thresholds and Guidance document on preparation of quantitative GHG emissions analyses is available at <https://humboldt.gov/DocumentCenter/View/136964/Humboldt-Final-CEQA-GHG-Thresholds-and-Guidance-Rpt?bidId=>

Figure 1 **Determining Consistency with the Humboldt RCAP**



GENERAL PROJECT INFORMATION

Project or Plan Name:	
Site Address:	
Assessor's Parcel Number(s):	
Lead Agency:	
Date Submitted:	
Applicant Name: _____	Contact Phone: _____
Company Name (if applicable): _____	Contact Email: _____
Company Address: _____	
Was a consultant retained to complete this checklist? Yes ☐ No ☐ If Yes, complete the following:	
Consultant Name: _____	Contact Phone: _____
Company Name: _____	Contact Email: _____
Company Address: _____	
Project Information (description summary)	
What is the size of the project site or plan area (acres)?	
Gross: _____	
Net: _____	
If proposing a Major Renovation:	
Square-footage to be renovated:	
Square-footage of additions:	
Cost of renovation:	
Market value of existing development:	
Identify all applicable proposed land uses:	
☐ Residential (indicate # of single-family dwelling units): _____	
☐ Residential (indicate # of multi-family dwelling units): _____	
☐ Commercial (indicate total square footage, gross and net): _____	
☐ Municipal (indicate total square footage, gross and net): _____	
☐ Other (describe): _____	

This image shows a full page of blank, lined paper. It features approximately 30 horizontal black lines spaced evenly apart, typical of notebook paper. The lines extend across the entire width of the page, leaving small margins at the top and bottom. There are no vertical lines or other markings present.

COMPLIANCE CHECKLIST TABLE

SECTION 1: LAND USE CONSISTENCY—ALL LOCATIONS			
Regulation	Requirements	Project/Plan Compliance	Required Explanation
Applicable General Plan	1a. Does the Project/Plan include a General Plan Amendment?	Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☐	_____ _____ _____ _____
Applicable Zoning Code	1b. Does the Project/Plan include a Zoning Map Amendment/Rezoning, and/or Zoning Text Amendment? <i>If “No” for questions 1a. and 1b., proceed to Section 2 – RCAP Consistency. If “Yes” to either question 1a or 1.b, proceed to question 1c.</i>	Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☐	_____ _____ _____ _____
Applicable General Plan and Zoning Code	1c. Would the land use and/or zoning amendment result in an equivalent or fewer GHG emissions when compared to development permitted under the existing zoning? ⁵	Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☐	_____ _____ _____ _____

⁵ Modeling of the Project/Plan’s operational GHG emissions and the operational GHG emissions of the maximum permitted development under the existing General Plan Land Use/Zoning designations may be required to support a determination of “Yes” for this question, at the Lead Agency’s discretion.

SECTION 2: RCAP CONSISTENCY

Measure No.	Requirements	Project/Plan ⁶ Compliance	Required Explanation
Building Energy			
Energy Efficiency			
Measures BE-4, BE-5, and BE-6	1. All Project Types – Building Energy Efficiency Standards. Will the Project/Plan comply with the latest version of Building Energy Efficiency Standards ⁷ (California Energy Code) and any applicable municipal reach codes for building energy efficiency?	Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☐	
Measures BE-4, BE-5, and BE-6	2. All Project Types – Green Building Policies. Will the Project/Plan comply with the mandatory requirements of the latest version of the California Green Building Standards (CALGreen) Code ⁸ and any applicable municipal reach codes for building energy efficiency?	Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☐	
Building Decarbonization			
Measures BE-4, BE-5, BE-6, and BE-7	3. All Project Types – Building Decarbonization. Will the Project/Plan include decarbonized ⁹ or partially decarbonized (if barriers to full decarbonization exist) new construction and major renovations (based on the applicable municipal code or Humboldt County Code) including for lighting, heating, cooking, and water heating?	Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☐	

⁶ “No” responses to checklist items, except for those that include “as an option” in the language, indicate that a quantitative GHG emissions analysis is required for the Plan/Project. Checklist items that include “as an option” in the language are voluntary in nature.

⁷ As of the date of this current CEQA GHG Checklist, the 2022 Building Energy Efficiency Standards are in effect. Beginning January 1, 2026, the 2025 Building Energy Efficiency Standards will apply. For more information visit: <https://www.energy.ca.gov/programs-and-topics/programs/building-energy-efficiency-standards>

⁸ As of the date of this current CEQA GHG Checklist, the 2022 CALGreen Code is in effect. Beginning January 1, 2026, the 2025 CALGreen Code will apply. For more information visit: <https://www.dgs.ca.gov/BSC/CALGreen>

⁹ Building electrification meets the criteria for this measure, even though, as of the date of this checklist, the electric supply in Humboldt is not 100 percent decarbonized.

Measure BE-3 Rural	4. All Rural Residential Projects – Low-Carbon Fuels. For project sites without electrical access, as an option, will the Project/Plan use a low carbon fuel (rather than propane or diesel) for electricity?	Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☐	
Renewable Energy			
Measure BE-1	5. Commercial Project Types – Renewable Electricity. Where available, will the Project/Plan encourage occupants to either: (1) Retain Redwood Coast Energy Authority (RCEA) as the energy provider and enroll in the RePower+ option, (2) Enroll in the Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) 100% renewable rate option, and/or (3) Incorporate on-site renewable energy generation (such as rooftop solar panels) and battery storage?	Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☐	
Transportation			
Smart Growth			
Measure T-3	6. All Urban Project Types – Smart Growth. Will the Project/Plan include infill, transit-oriented, and/or mixed-use development?	Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☐	
Alternative and Shared Transportation			
Measure T-5, Measure T-2 Rural	7. Nonresidential and Mixed Use Projects – Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Plan. Will the Project/Plan (if employing 25 or more full-time equivalent employees) develop and implement a TDM Plan ^{10, 11} for alternative and shared modes of transportation?	Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☐	

¹⁰ Caltrans has published a Transportation Demand Management Toolbox that can provide guidance in the development of TDM Plans. Visit: <https://dot.ca.gov/-/media/dot-media/programs/transportation-planning/documents/division-transportation-planning/regional-and-community-planning/03-final-draft-2023-ldr-tdm-toolbox-071923-v2-a11y.pdf>

¹¹ The Victoria Transportation Policy Institute has published a TDM Encyclopedia that offers strategies and guidance on TDM planning. Visit: <https://www.vtpi.org/tdm/index.php>

Active Transportation

Measures T-1 Urban and T-1 Rural	8. All Project Types - Bicycle Parking. Will the Project/Plan comply with the latest version of the applicable local jurisdiction's code or CALGreen Code, whichever has the greater requirement, for provision of bicycle parking?	Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☐	
Measures T-1 Urban and T-1 Rural	9. All Project Types – Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities. Will the Project/Plan design the project site or plan area to include development of bike and/or pedestrian infrastructure such as bike lanes, bike repair stations, traffic calming features, wayfinding signage, sidewalks, and pedestrian crosswalks consistent with the municipality's circulation element, municipality's bicycle and pedestrian plans, Humboldt County Association of Government's Regional Transportation Plan, ¹² Regional Bicycle Plan, ¹³ and/or Regional Pedestrian Plan, ¹⁴ as applicable?	Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☐	

Electric Vehicles

Measures T-6 and T-11	10. All Project Types – EV Chargers. If feasible (e.g., if private, off-street parking is proposed and the electrical distribution system serving the project site has adequate capacity), will the Project/Plan comply with the CALGreen Code Tier 2 requirements for provision of parking spaces and infrastructure designed to accommodate electric vehicles?	Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☐	
Measure SW-1	13. All Project Types – Landfill Diversion. Will the Project/Plan meet the applicable local code requirements for solid waste sorting and disposal?	Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☐	

¹² https://www.hcaog.net/sites/default/files/vroom_2022-2042_full_report_0%20%281%29_0.pdf

¹³ <https://www.hcaog.net/sites/default/files/Final%20Bike%20Plan%20Update%202018%20incl%20maps.pdf>

¹⁴ https://www.hcaog.net/sites/default/files/2008_final_draft_-_hc_regional_ped_plan.pdf

Water and Wastewater

Water Use Efficiency

Measure WW-2	11. All Project Types – Water Conservation. Will the Project/Plan meet the water-efficiency standards established by the applicable municipal code and CALGreen code by including water efficient fixtures and appliances?	Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☐	_____ _____ _____
Measure WW-2	12. All Project Types – Water Efficient Landscaping. Will the Project/Plan include water efficient landscaping and landscaping irrigation systems in compliance with the requirements of the applicable local code or Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (Title 24, Part 11, Chapters 4 and 5) ¹⁵ ?	Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☐	_____ _____ _____

Use of Recycled Water

Measure WW-2	13. All New Project Types – Graywater Ready. Will the Project/Plan include development that is built graywater ready for landscape watering and toilets?	Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☐	_____ _____ _____
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Carbon Sequestration and Urban Heat

Measure CS-2	17. All Project Types – Compost Application. As an option, will the Project/Plan apply compost, mulch, or biochar to landscaping, open space, and/or agricultural areas to enhance with carbon sequestration and assist with SB 1383 compliance.	Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☐	_____ _____ _____
Measure CS-3	14. All Project Types - Tree Planting. As an option, will the Project/Plan include new and replacement native trees (as applicable)?	Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☐	_____ _____ _____

¹⁵ Available at: <https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Water-Use-And-Efficiency/Urban-Water-Use-Efficiency/Model-Water-Efficient-Landscape-Ordinance>

Measure CS-3	15. All Project Types - Tree Replacement. Will the Plan/Project comply with the tree replacement requirements of the local code, as applicable?	Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☐	_____ _____ _____
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Section 3: Summary and Signature

Final Consistency Determination	Does the Project/Plan incorporate all applicable and non-optional checklist items? If no, Project/Plan requires quantitative GHG emissions assessment.	Yes ☐ No ☐
Signature(s)	Signatures for the checklist preparer and/or Project/Plan applicant/proponent should be added below to indicate that this checklist has been filled out accurately and the Project/Plan has committed to including the Checklist Items above marked with "Yes" in the Project/Plan design.	

Checklist Prepared by: _____
(Name)

Checklist Prepared by: _____
(Signature)

Checklist Prepared on: _____
(Date)

Acronyms

CALGreen- California Green Building Standards

CEQA- California Environmental Quality Act

EV- Electric vehicle

GHG- Greenhouse gas

NOP- Notice of Preparation

PG&E- Pacific Gas and Electric

RCAP- Regional Climate Action Plan

RCEA- Redwood Coast Energy Authority

TDM- Transportation Demand Management

Definitions

All Project Types- “All Project Types” refers to all new developments or major renovations for residential, mixed-use, commercial, and institutional land uses. Industrial projects and emissions generated by those sources are regulated by CARB and are not under local jurisdictions’ direct operational control. Therefore, the RCAP GHG emissions inventories and forecasts do not account for GHG emissions from industrial uses, and this checklist does not apply to industrial projects.

Building Decarbonization- Building decarbonization is the process of reducing GHG emissions from buildings. This involves transitioning to efficient, all-electric appliances and systems, utilizing low-carbon electricity, and improving energy efficiency. For more information, visit: <https://www.energy.ca.gov/programs-and-topics/topics/building-decarbonization>

Graywater Ready- Is a system that collects water from graywater sources (clothes washers, showers, lavatory faucets, etc.) separately from blackwater sources (i.e. toilets, kitchen faucets, and dishwashers). Graywater can then be utilized to supply water for landscaping irrigation and toilets.

Infill Development- Refers to building within unused and underutilized lands within existing development patterns, typically but not exclusively in urban areas.

Major Renovations- Qualifying major renovations should be determined based on the local jurisdiction’s adopted definition (if available), or if not defined by the local jurisdiction, the California Building Code. Chapter 2 of the California Building Code defines substantial improvements as any repair, reconstruction, rehabilitation, alteration, addition or other improvement of a building or structure, the cost of which equals or exceeds 50 percent of the market value of the structure before the improvement or repair is started. Refer to: <https://codes.iccsafe.org/content/CABC2022P4/chapter-2-definitions>.

Major Transit Stop- A transit stop that contains any of the following:

- (a) An existing rail or bus rapid transit station.
- (b) A ferry terminal served by either a bus or rail transit service.
- (c) The intersection of two or more major bus routes with a frequency of service interval of 20 minutes or less during the morning and afternoon peak commute periods.

Mixed-Use Development- the practice of accommodating more than one type of function within a building, a set of buildings, or a specific area. The primary functions can include residential, office, retail, and commercial uses, with parks and open space as additional functions.

Transit-Oriented Development- Is compact development near transit facilities providing high quality walking environments. It usually includes new residential development, office space, commercial use, and/or other service amenities that are within a half mile of a major transit stop, as defined in the California Public Resources Code 21064.3, and easily commutable by other means such as walking and biking.

Transportation Demand Management (TDM)- Is a set of strategies aimed at increasing the efficiency of the transportation system and reducing vehicle miles traveled and greenhouse gas emissions through alternative modes of travel.

Transportation Demand Management Plan- A document that outlines the strategies a particular project or plan will implement to reduce vehicle miles traveled and associated GHG emissions from people traveling to and from the project or plan area.

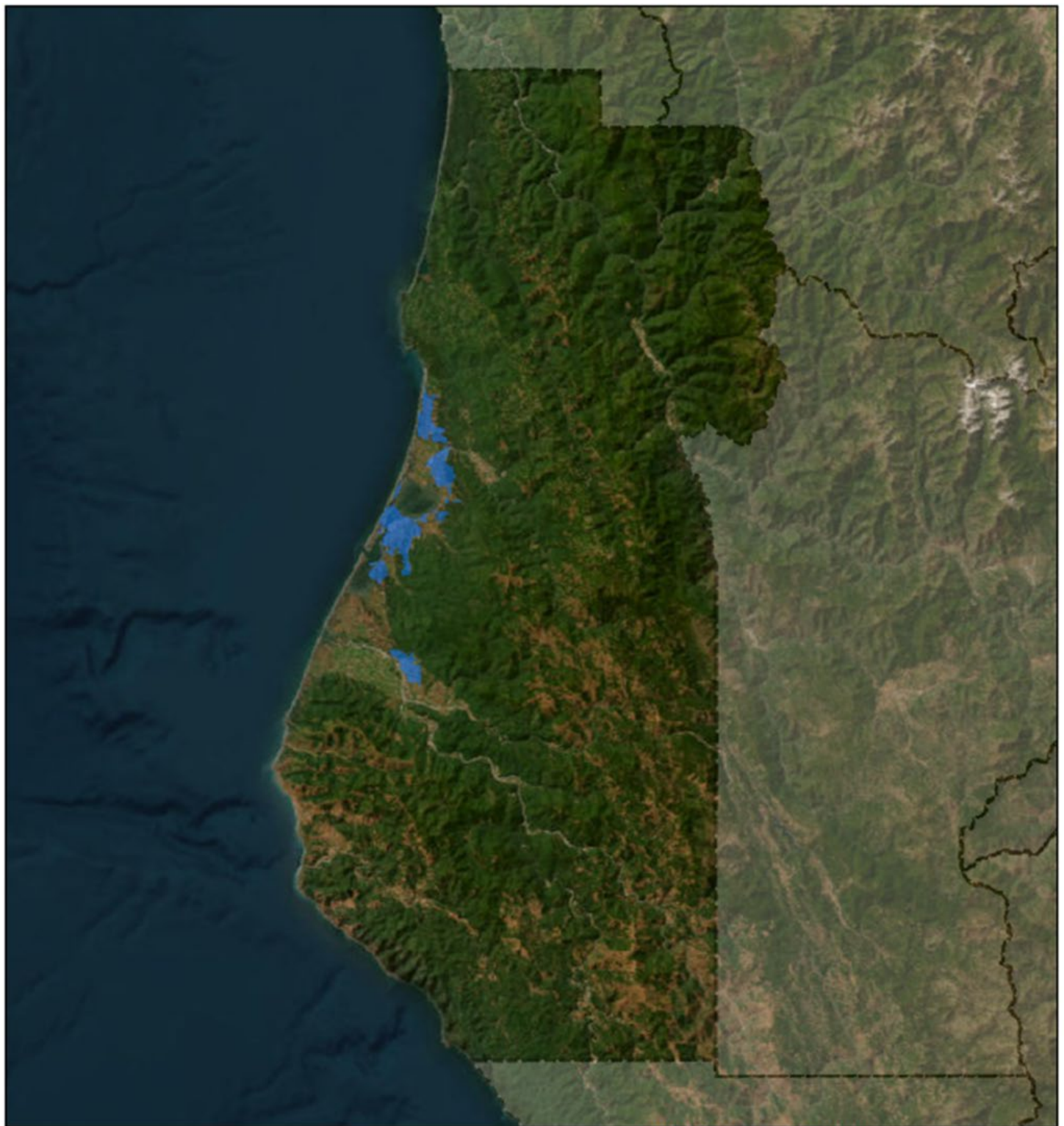
Additional Background Information

On **July 8, 2025**, Humboldt County adopted the Humboldt Regional Climate Action Plan (RCAP) that establishes 2030 and 2045 greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction targets and provides measures and actions to establish a trajectory towards achieving those targets. The RCAP includes specific measures and actions to achieve the communitywide GHG emissions reduction target of 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030 and make substantial progress towards achieving the State's GHG reduction goal of carbon neutrality by 2045. This is consistent with the State's GHG reduction goal for 2030 established by Senate Bill 32 and provides substantial progress towards achieving the State's long-term GHG reduction goal of carbon neutrality by 2045 (pursuant to Assembly Bill 1279).

Pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15183.5, a lead agency may determine that a project's or plan's incremental contribution to a GHG emissions cumulative effect is not cumulatively considerable if the project or plan complies with the requirements in a previously adopted plan or mitigation program for the purpose of reducing GHG emissions under specified circumstances. For the RCAP to be considered a qualified GHG reduction strategy and provide for CEQA streamlining of GHG emissions analysis for future development, the RCAP must identify those measures and actions that are applicable to future development projects. Specifically, the RCAP includes measures and actions that are applicable to existing developments and municipal government operations, as well as measures and actions to be applied to future public and private development projects.

Consistent with the RCAP, this CEQA GHG Checklist contains a set of questions reflecting RCAP measures and actions that apply to all projects, as well as questions specific to urban areas and those specific to rural areas of Humboldt. Urban areas in Humboldt are more densely developed areas in the region with greater access to energy and transportation infrastructure. The RCAP uses the 2020 US Census Bureau definition of "urban" areas: densely settled census blocks with at least 5,000 people or at least 2,000 housing units. Rural areas in Humboldt represent the more dispersed communities in the region with limited access to energy and transportation infrastructure. This includes much of the unincorporated County as well as some incorporated cities that have similar constraints. Figure 2 shows the areas in Humboldt considered urban for the RCAP and CEQA GHG Checklist. To determine if your project is an urban or rural area, please use the Humboldt County Web GIS at www.Humboldt.gov/Web-GIS and search under the layer named *Housing* and select *Urban Areas (2020 Census- SB9, 10)*.

Figure 2 Urban Areas of Humboldt



Climate Action Plan Urban Areas
Humboldt County Planning and Building Department

-  Counties
-  Urban Areas (2020 Census- SB 9,10)

Center of Map: 123°54'29"W 40°44'13"N

0 3.25 6.5 13 19.5 26 mi
RF=1:1,155,581 1 inch equals 96,298 feet



Printed: 4/21/2025 2:50 PM Web AppBuilder 2.21 for ArcGIS
Map Disclaimer:
While every effort has been made to assure the accuracy of this information, it should be understood that it does not have the force & effect of law, rule, or regulation. Should any difference or error occur, the law will take precedence.
Sources: Humboldt County GIS, Earthstar Geographics