

**RESOLUTION OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION
OF THE COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT**

Resolution Number: 23-

Record Number: PLN-2023-18133

Assessor's Parcel Numbers: 520-161-003 and 520-171-005

Resolution by the Planning Commission of the County of Humboldt conditionally approving the Orick Community Services District Community Tank Replacement Project - Tank 1 Replacement Coastal Development Permit, Conditional Use Permit, General Plan Conformance Review, and Special Permit.

WHEREAS, Orick Community Services District submitted an application and evidence in support of approving the Coastal Development Permit, Conditional Use Permit, General Plan Conformance Review, and Special Permit; and

WHEREAS, the County Planning Division has reviewed the submitted application and evidence and has referred the application and evidence to involved reviewing agencies for site inspections, comments and recommendations; and

WHEREAS, Orick Community Services District as the lead agency under CEQA found the project categorically exempt from CEQA per Sections 15301, 15302, and 15303 of CEQA Guidelines and the County of Humboldt as a responsible agency under CEQA agrees with the finding; and

WHEREAS, Attachment 3 in the Planning Division staff report includes evidence in support of making all of the required findings for approving the proposed project (Record Number: PLN-2023-18133); and

WHEREAS, the Humboldt County Planning Commission held a duly-noticed public hearing on June 1, 2023, and reviewed, considered, and discussed the application for the Coastal Development Permit, Conditional Use Permit, General Plan Conformance Review, and Special Permit, and reviewed and considered all evidence and testimony presented at the hearing.

Now, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Planning Commission makes all the following findings:

- 1. FINDING:** **Project Description:** A Coastal Development Permit (CDP) and Conditional Use Permit including a General Plan Conformance (GPC) Review for Orick Community Services District to replace an existing 100,000-gallon redwood water tank with a new 100,000-gallon, glass-fused, bolted steel tank with a concrete foundation. The existing redwood water tank is leaking and not designed to withstand a seismic event. The existing tank will be demolished and removed. The new tank will be constructed approximately 15 feet northeast of the original tank footprint and include the replacement of water and electrical lines. A new supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) system will be installed on the tank. An overflow outlet is proposed that will

require riprap to be installed that will extend approximately six feet onto APN 520-171-005 within an existing drainage easement. A Special Permit is required for Design Review.

EVIDENCE: a) Project File: PLN-2023-18133

2. FINDING: **CEQA:** The County is a Responsible Agency under CEQA and has found that the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act have been met. As lead agency, the Orick Community Services District found the project exempt from environmental review pursuant to Sections 15301 (Class 1 - Existing Facilities), 15302 (Class 2 - Replacement or Reconstruction) , and 15303 (Class 3 - New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures) of the State CEQA Guidelines.

EVIDENCE: a) Class 1 authorizes the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use. Class 2 authorizes replacement or reconstruction of existing utility systems and/or facilities where the new structure will be located on the same site as the structure being replaced and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure replaced. Class 3 authorizes construction of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures and installation of small new equipment and facilities in small structures.

The project is consistent with the categorical exemptions noted above because work would not expand the District's water service capacity; the new tank would be constructed on the same site as the tank being replaced; only minor earth disturbance would be required to accommodate the proposed improvements; the ground surface would be restored following construction; and new construction would be limited to small structures. It should be noted that the California Department of Public Health recognizes water tanks up to 100,000 gallons in size as small structures.

3. FINDING The subject parcel is transected by the Coastal Zone boundary and is therefore in both the Rural Agriculture, 5 - 20 acres per unit (RA5-20) land use designation and the Agricultural/General, 5-acre minimum lot size (AG(5)) land use designation. The project, as conditioned, is consistent with the development policies of the North Coast Area Plan, the Orick Community Plan, and the Humboldt County General Plan.

EVIDENCE a) The project is to replace an existing community water storage tank and associated ancillary development. The parcel that the new tank would be located on has never been farmed and is not suitable for production of food, fiber, plants or the grazing of recreational livestock, or a

residence incidental to this use due the small parcel size and being isolated by relatively steep terrain.

- b) The replacement of the existing water storage tank will maintain adequate storage for the Orick Community Service District. The replacement of the current water storage tank will not expand the District's service area, water withdraws or customer entitlements, but will replace an existing redwood water tank that is leaking and not designed to withstand a seismic event.
- c) The proposed project will have no net effect on housing densities. The parcel was not included in the 2019 County Housing Inventory. The purpose of the Project is to replace an existing 100,000-gallon water tank and associated ancillary infrastructure in order to maintain an adequate water supply facilitating achievement of the County's housing goals and programs of the Housing Element for the Orick area.
- d) The subject parcel is located within an area of low instability and outside of any Alquist-Priolo fault hazard area and is not located in an area of historic landslides. The parcel is located outside of the tsunami hazard area and tsunami evacuation area, outside areas potential liquefaction, and outside of the flood zone. The parcel is within a moderate fire hazard severity zone. The parcel is within the State Responsibility Area (SRA) for fire protection and within the Orick Community Services District who responds to structural fires and medical emergencies. The project is not projected to increase hazard risk.
- e) The project was referred to the Northwest Information Center (NWIC) and the Yurok Tribe. NWIC responded stating the following: *although the general vicinity has sensitivity for archaeological resources, the proposed project area has a low possibility of containing unrecorded archaeological site(s). Therefore, no further study for archaeological resources is recommended. If archaeological resources are encountered during construction, work should be temporarily halted in the vicinity of the discovered materials and workers should avoid altering the materials and their context until a qualified professional archaeologist has evaluated the situation and provided appropriate recommendations.* The Yurok Tribe did not respond. The standard inadvertent discovery protocol is included as a condition of project approval.
- f) According to the California Natural Diversity Database, the site has potential habitat for obscure bumble bee and western bumble bee. As the project site has been extensively disturbed in the past, further disturbance within relatively the same footprint is not expected to adversely affect habitat for these species. The project was referred to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and they expressed no concerns about the project.

- g) The project is not in a Coastal Scenic Area, Coastal View Area, or Redwood Creek estuary view area.
- h) The proposed project will not interfere with right of access to the sea, as there are no coastal access points on the subject parcels.

4. FINDING

The subject parcel is transected by the Coastal Zone boundary and is therefore in both the Agricultural Exclusive zone (AE) and the Residential Single Family, 20-acre minimum lot size, with combining zones for Manufactured Homes and Design Review (RS-20-M/D) zone. The proposed development is consistent with the purposes of both the AE zone and the RS-20-M/D zone.

EVIDENCE

- a) The proposed water tank replacement and associated ancillary development is a permitted use in both the AE zone and the RS-20-M/D zone with approval of a Use Permit.
- b) The new water tank will meet all setback requirements for both the AE and RS zones. The new tank will be located inside of the 30-foot minimum SRA setback on the southeast parcel boundary (21 feet); however, a reduction in the minimum setback is allowed per Section 1276.01 of State Fire Safe Regulations due to the small size of the parcel and the water tank being constructed of non-combustible materials.
- c) The new water tank will not exceed the maximum structure height for either zone.
- d) No manufactured homes are proposed as part of this project.
- e) Proposed improvements would be set back approximately 1,150 feet west of State Route 101 and approximately 880 feet north of Hufford Road. The proposed 30-foot-tall water tank would be green to blend into the surrounding forest and would be significantly lower in height than surrounding trees. A two-foot-tall antenna would be attached to a four-foot-tall railing mounted to the top of the tank; the antenna would be thin and would not stand out from existing features. These improvements would not block views of the coast or coastal waterways and would not be readily visible from public trails, beaches, or recreation areas.
- f) Construction of the new water tank would require minimal excavation. Removal of concrete, loose native soil, and organic material are anticipated with replacement of the existing tank concrete ring foundation. The entire tank pad will be over-excavated approximately four feet below the existing grades. Over-excavation limits will extend a minimum of five feet beyond the tank perimeter. No tree removal is required.
- g) The proposed project does not include the installation of lighting at the water tank.

- h) The project would not require the relocation of sewer lines, storm drains, natural gas, or other utility infrastructure. The proposed project includes the construction of a new replacement water tank and the installation of an antenna. The two-foot-tall antenna would be attached to a four-foot-tall railing mounted to the top of the tank; the antenna would be thin and would not stand out from existing features.
- i) The proposed project does not include the installation of off-premises signs.

5. FINDING

The project is consistent with the Orick Community Plan, the Humboldt County General Plan, and the North Coast Area Plan.

EVIDENCE

- a) The project involves replacement of the existing 100,000-gallon redwood water tank with a new 100,000-gallon, glass-fused, bolted steel tank with a concrete foundation. The project site was acquired by the Orick Community Services District in 1977 and has since then been used in its current capacity. The Humboldt County General Plan identifies Essential Services (i.e., community wells, water storage tanks, and associated water treatment facilities.) as an allowable use type within the RA designation. The North Coast Area Plan identifies the AG land use designation as land that is appropriate for production of food, fiber, plants or the grazing of recreational livestock, with a residence incidental to this use, all of which could be supported by the proposed project.
- b) The proposed replacement of the 100,000-gallon storage tank will allow the Orick Community Services District to maintain the achievement of goals and policies specified in the Humboldt County General Plan Chapter 5, Community Infrastructure and Services Element as well as Chapter 11, Water Resources Element specified in the Humboldt County General Plan. Specifically, Chapter 5, Policy IS-P16, Water and Wastewater System Capital Improvements, which is 'Support the efforts of service providers to develop and maintain capital improvement programs for construction of water and wastewater systems.' Additionally, the proposed tank replacement supports Policy WR-P27 Sufficient Water Supply, 'Support the actions and facilities needed by public water systems to supply the demands projected in this plan.'
- c) In accordance with the North Coast Area Plan, the proposed project will not contribute to the extension of services outside the serviceable area, or to expansion of system capacity above the capacity needed to provide services in the serviceable area.
- d) All applicable policies of the Orick Community Plan, Humboldt County General Plan and North Coast Area Plan remain in full force.
- e) The applicant will be responsible for obtaining all necessary Federal,

State and Local permits, including Building Permits from the County of Humboldt Building Division to facilitate demolition and construction.

- f) Orick Community Services District, acting as lead agency found the project exempt from CEQA pursuant to Sections 15301, 15302, and 15303 of the CEQA guidelines.

6. FINDING

The Project and the conditions under which it may be operated or maintained will not be detrimental to the public health, safety, or welfare or materially injurious to properties or improvements in the vicinity.

EVIDENCE

- a) An objective of the project is to replace an existing 100,000-gallon redwood water tank that is leaking and not designed to withstand a seismic event with a new 100,000-gallon, glass-fused, bolted steel tank with a concrete foundation, which is in the interest of public health, safety, and welfare.

There is no evidence the work would be detrimental to the public health, safety, or welfare.

7. FINDING

Development permits shall be issued only for a lot that was created in compliance with all applicable state and local subdivision regulations.

EVIDENCE

- a) The subject parcel is a legally created parcel described in the deed to Orick Community Services District, recorded in Official Records Volume 1437, Page 540. Conveyances to government agencies are exempt from the Subdivision Map Act requirements.

8. FINDING

The proposed development does not reduce the residential density for any parcel below that utilized by the Department of Housing and Community Development in determining compliance with housing element law.

EVIDENCE

- a) The parcel was not included in the housing inventory of Humboldt County's 2019 Housing Element.

DECISION

NOW, THEREFORE, based on the above findings and evidence, the Humboldt County Planning Commission does hereby:

- Adopt the findings set forth in this resolution; and
- Conditionally approves the Coastal Development Permit, Conditional Use Permit, General Plan Conformance Review, and Special Permit for Orick Community Services District subject to the conditions of approval attached hereto as Attachment 1A.

Adopted after review and consideration of all the evidence June 1, 2023.

The motion was made by COMMISSIONER _____ and second by COMMISSIONER _____ and the following ROLL CALL vote:

AYES: COMMISSIONERS:
NOES: COMMISSIONERS:
ABSENT: COMMISSIONERS:
ABSTAIN: COMMISSIONERS:
DECISION:

I, John Ford, Secretary to the Planning Commission of the County of Humboldt, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct record of the action taken on the above-entitled matter by said Commission at a meeting held on the date noted above.

John Ford, Director
Planning and Building Department