

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.

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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**.

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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

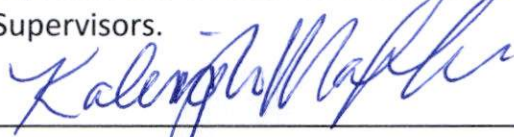
ABSTAIN: Supervisors -- None

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