

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

Certified copy of portion of proceedings, Meeting of December 16, 2025

RESOLUTION NO. 25-198

**RESOLUTION BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT MAKING FINDINGS IN SUPPORT OF ADOPTING THE CEQA GHG EMISSIONS THRESHOLDS GUIDANCE REPORT**

**WHEREAS**, CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.7(a) defines a threshold of significance as “an identifiable quantitative, qualitative or performance level of a particular environmental effect, noncompliance with which means the effect will normally be determined to be significant by the agency and compliance with which means the effect normally will be determined to be less than significant”; and

**WHEREAS**, CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.7(b) encourages public agencies to develop thresholds of significance that the agency uses in the determination of the significant environmental effects. Thresholds of significance adopted for general use as part of a lead agency’s environmental review process must be adopted by ordinance, resolution, rule, or regulations, developed through a public review process, and be supported by substantial evidence; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.7(c), when adopting thresholds of significance, a public agency may consider thresholds of significance adopted or recommended by other public agencies or recommended by experts, provided that the decision of the agency is supported by substantial evidence; and

**WHEREAS**, the adoption by resolution of quantitative urban and rural CEQA GHG emissions thresholds that were developed using accepted guidance from the Association of Environmental Professionals (AEP) for establishing GHG emissions efficiency thresholds and using the local GHG inventory and demographic forecasts that were established in the RCAP, as well as considering adopted thresholds by other agencies, expert recommendation and public comment consideration is provided substantial evidence; and

**WHEREAS**, the Humboldt County Planning Commission held a public workshop on the RCAP and quantitative CEQA GHG Emissions Thresholds on August 7, 2025; and

**WHEREAS**, on Wednesday, August 30, 2025, the Planning Division caused to be published in the Eureka Times-Standard, a newspaper of general circulation in Humboldt County, a Notice of Public Hearing on the proposed adoption of the CEQA GHG Emissions Thresholds; and

**WHEREAS**, on October 16, 2025, the Humboldt County Planning Commission held a public hearing on the CEQA GHG Emissions Thresholds and recommended the Board of Supervisors adopt the CEQA GHG Emissions Thresholds and Guidance Report.

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**WHEREAS**, on December 16, 2025, the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors held a public hearing on the CEQA GHG Emissions Thresholds to adopt the CEQA GHG Emissions Thresholds and Guidance Report.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MAKES THE FOLLOWING REQUIRED FINDINGS OF APPROVAL:**

**1. FINDING:** It is necessary to adopt CEQA Thresholds of Significance for Greenhouse Gas Emissions related to projects and programs that cannot comply with the Regional Climate Action Plan between the years 2025 and 2030 to maintain a consistent level of review and encourage compliance with the RCAP.

**EVIDENCE:**

- a) CEQA Guidelines Section 15183.5 states: A plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions may be used in a cumulative impacts analysis. A lead agency may determine that a project's incremental contribution to a cumulative effect is not cumulatively considerable if the project complies with the requirements in a previously adopted plan.
- b) The County has adopted a Regional Climate Action Plan written to reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions on a Countywide basis. Future projects and programs consistent with the plan will not need to conduct additional GHG Emissions analysis.
- c) Projects and programs which cannot comply with the program will need to conduct additional GHG Analysis and the thresholds for determining a level of significance must be in alignment with the 2030 and 2045 goals for GHG Reductions stated in the RCAP.

**2. FINDING:** The Greenhouse Gas Thresholds being adopted meet the standard for an appropriate threshold because the thresholds are consistent with or more restrictive than the per capita emissions rates that would be achieved through compliance with the RCAP and as a result are an appropriate threshold to determine the level of significance for projects which do not strictly comply with the RCAP.

**EVIDENCE:**

- a) The urban and rural GHG efficiency thresholds are calculated by dividing the remaining 2030 GHG emissions from new development (i.e., residential and nonresidential) by the net increase in demographics in 2030.

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- b) Page 30 of the California Environmental Quality Act Greenhouse Gas Emissions Thresholds and Guidance document finds the urban and rural GHG emissions thresholds resulting from this disaggregation (a) above) positions Humboldt to achieve the 2030 target.
- c) If a plan or project's emissions do not exceed the applicable threshold, then it is considered consistent with the RCAP and its GHG emissions impacts (both project- and cumulative-level) would not result in a cumulatively considerable impact related to GHG emissions and climate change and would, therefore, be less than significant.

**3. FINDING:** The GHG emissions thresholds have been prepared in compliance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.7 for selecting thresholds of significance.

**EVIDENCE:**

- a) Using per capita and per employee thresholds is immediately identifiable, quantitative and allows a clear determination of whether a project meets the threshold (15064.7 (a))
- b) The Thresholds are being adopted by resolution (15064.7 (b)).
- c) The County of Humboldt did consider thresholds used by City of Cupertino, City of Hayward, City of Pinole, City of Pleasanton, City of Sunnyvale, City of San Luis Obispo and the County of Santa Barbara. Each of this is a more urbanized location and the Thresholds are inapplicable to the County of Humboldt (15064.7 (c)).
- d) Using per capita numbers that are derived from the RCAP relates the thresholds back to RCAP compliance and is thus consistent. The objective of the RCAP is to reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions which is a contributor to Climate Change, thus this standard is for the protection of the environment (15064.7 (d)).

**4. FINDING:** Adopting the Humboldt CEQA GHG Emissions Thresholds will not have a significant effect on the environment as identified in the EIR prepared for the Humboldt Regional Climate Action Plan and CEQA GHG Emissions Thresholds.

**EVIDENCE:**

- a) The GHG Thresholds have been extracted from achieving the goals of the Regional Climate Action Plan, and implementation of the RCAP has been evaluated in the EIR in a manner that complies with CEQA for purposes of adoption of the GHG Thresholds.

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- b) As stated on page 2-50 of the DEIR: The Humboldt CEQA GHG Emissions Thresholds provide guidance during CEQA review and do not propose development or changes to land use and zoning.
- c) As stated on page 2-51 of the DEIR: implementation of the GHG Emissions Thresholds would not have direct construction or operational impacts.

**5. FINDING:** An Errata prepared for the Project Description of the DEIR clarifies the thresholds needed to achieve the 2030 goals of the RCAP and no additional environmental review is necessary, nor is recirculation of the DEIR required.

**EVIDENCE:** a) The CEQA GHG Thresholds document calculated the urban and rural GHG efficiency thresholds by dividing the remaining 2030 GHG emissions from new development (i.e., residential and nonresidential) by the net increase in demographics in 2030. This was shown in Table 7 of the Thresholds document.

b) The RCAP is only effective through 2030 at which time a new RCAP will need to be adopted, and the Thresholds of significance will also need to be revisited at that time. It is not necessary to adopt thresholds which are more conservative than meeting the 2030 goals.

c) The Thresholds document proposed to reduce the thresholds in Table 7 of the Thresholds document by 50% to better position Humboldt for an efficient pathway to the 2045 goals.

d) The 50% threshold reduction was included in the project description of the DEIR but was not used as part of the analysis in the EIR and was not needed to mitigate in potential impacts identified within the EIR.

e) It is appropriate to select thresholds consistent with or more conservative than the 2030 goals contained in the RCAP.

**6. FINDING:** The Board of Supervisors finds it appropriate to establish CEQA GHG Thresholds that are lower than would be achieved under the RCAP to better position the County to Achieve 2045 Goals, while not adopting Thresholds so restrictive so as to deter new development so the CEQA GHG Thresholds are being set at 35% below the level that would achieve the 2030 Goals as follows:

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	New Residential	New Non-Residential	New Mixed-Use
Urban	2.36/resident	5.28/employee	3.37/serv pers
Rural	2.38/resident	5.30/employee	3.30/serv pers

**EVIDENCE:** a) The County of Santa Barbara adopted the following Thresholds for the unincorporated areas:

New Residential	New Non-Residential	New Mixed-Use
2.68/resident	2.63/employee	2.67/service person

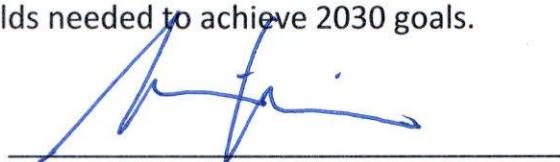
- b) Existing development techniques and equipment, including weatherization, lighting, power source, and method of employee transportation are examples that can lower the GHG emissions of a project.
- c) A lower GHG emissions threshold means plans or projects incorporate GHG-reducing measures into the initial design and construction of the building, avoiding added costs to transition their existing plans or projects to lower-emitting designs when it is more expensive down the road.
- d) A Threshold at 65% of the thresholds developed from the RCAP to meet the 2030 State Goal to achieve a 40% Greenhouse Gas reduction is reflects the rural context of Humboldt County and maintains a firm resolve to achieve the 2045 state goals.

## DECISION

**NOW, THEREFORE**, based upon the above findings and evidence, the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors does hereby:

1. Adopt the CEQA GHG Emissions Thresholds and Guidance Report with a reduction of 35% below the emissions thresholds needed to achieve 2030 goals.

Dated: 12/14/2025



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Supervisor Mike Wilson, Chair  
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors

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

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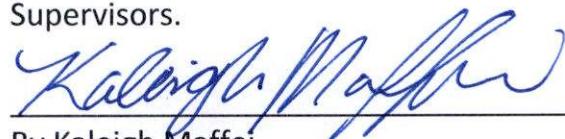
vote:

AYES: Supervisors -- Arroyo, Bohn, Bushnell, Madrone, and Wilson  
NAYS: 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.

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