

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Certified copy of portion of proceedings, Meeting of November 18, 2025

RESOLUTION NO.

RESOLUTION BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT MAKING FINDINGS IN SUPPORT OF ADOPTING THE AMENDMENTS TO THE COMMERCIAL CANNABIS MICROBUSINESS STANDARDS 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, the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors adopted the Commercial Cannabis Land Use Ordinance on May 18, 2018, which has been effective since June 8, 2018; and

WHEREAS, public comment has revealed a desire from some cultivators to more easily acquire permits for microbusinesses to enable more control over the elements of production and sales of their product. Therefore, Humboldt County initiated the Zoning Ordinance amendments herein to provide a means of granting microbusiness permits more easily; and

WHEREAS, on September 18, 2025, the Humboldt County Planning Commission recommended the Board of Supervisors adopt the proposed draft Amendments to the Commercial Cannabis Microbusiness Standards Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, on October 31, 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 with the Board of Supervisors on the proposed amendments regarding Notices of Action and Decision and Notice; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors held a public hearing on the Amendments to the Commercial Cannabis Microbusiness Standards Ordinance and text amendment on November 18, 2025; and

Now, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors makes all the following findings:

- 1. FINDING:** **Record Description:** An amendment to the Commercial Cannabis Microbusiness provisions of the Inland Zoning Regulations to amend subsections 314-55.4.8.2 and 314-55.4.10.3 to broaden the permit-type options for cannabis microbusinesses and to enable nonvolatile cannabis manufacturing in association with cannabis cultivation activities. This Zoning Ordinance Amendment applies to the entire

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Certified copy of portion of proceedings, Meeting of November 18, 2025

RESOLUTION NO.

inland region of Humboldt County.

EVIDENCE: a) Record File: PLN-2025-19214

FINDINGS FOR CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT

2. FINDING: The project complies with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act. The Humboldt County Board of Supervisors has considered the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) prepared for the Commercial Cannabis Land Use Ordinance (CCLUO) adopted by the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors on May 8, 2018, and the Addendum to the EIR prepared for this project.

EVIDENCE:

- a) Addendum prepared for the proposed project.
- b) The proposed project does not present substantial changes that would require major revisions to the previous EIR. No new information of substantial importance that was not known and could not be known at the time was presented as described by §15162(c) of CEQA Guidelines.
- c) The Draft EIR states that supporting operations, such as manufacturing, retail, or third-party distribution, would not be permitted in areas zoned for forest land or timber production to ensure that impacts to forestry resources would not be cumulatively considerable. The proposed amendment creates an exception to this for microbusinesses, but this exception is dependent on all new activities occurring exclusively within existing structures, a prohibition on onsite customer traffic, and limitations on sourcing cannabis from other sites, so the impacts to forestry resources would still not be cumulatively considerable.
- d) The amendment to the ordinance to enable microbusinesses to be permitted by Zoning Clearance Certificates under certain circumstances and to permit nonvolatile manufacturing activities in association with cultivation activities via Zoning Clearance Certificates do not create the potential for environmental impacts

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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RESOLUTION NO.

different than the ones analyzed for the Commercial Cannabis Land Use Ordinance.

PUBLIC INTEREST

3. FINDING: The amendments are in the public interest. Adjusting the permitting hurdle involved in the microbusiness title to match the actual uses therein and allowing nonvolatile manufacturing activities in association with cultivation activities are both consistent with the purpose of the adopted Ordinance. The adjustment to the microbusiness code provides clarity to the public and county staff for application and expectation. The adjustment to the manufacturing code enables cultivators to integrate their business models vertically and avoids significant new development in rural communities.

EVIDENCE:

- a) Currently there is confusion about the permitting requirements associated with self-transportation, processing, and off-site retail sales. Clarifying that the title of microbusiness may be granted to uses that would only require a Zoning Clearance Certificate, rather than based on a Special Permit exclusively, may reduce this confusion. Clarity is in the public interest.
- b) Members of the public have stated that a significant detriment to their cannabis cultivation profit margins is third-party contractors either being over-priced or failing to deliver on contracts. The proposed amendments enable cultivators to have more options to independently process and deliver their product, while reducing overall costs for State licensing.

CONSISTENCY WITH THE GENERAL PLAN

4. FINDING: The proposed Commercial Cannabis Land Use Ordinance amendment is consistent with the General Plan.

EVIDENCE:

- a) The amendment to the Inland Commercial Cannabis Land Use Ordinance does not change development standards, density, or design standards within any of the designations where the uses are allowed, making the ordinance consistent with the General Plan.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Certified copy of portion of proceedings, Meeting of November 18, 2025

RESOLUTION NO.

- b) The General Plan identifies where commercial, agricultural, and industrial uses are allowed. This ordinance amendment would not change that.
- c) The Ordinance Amendment would not directly grant any additional development entitlements which do not already exist.

CONSISTENCY WITH ZONING ORDINANCE

5. FINDING: Humboldt County Code Section 312-50.3.4 requires that any proposed amendment must 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, 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 Commercial Cannabis Land Use Ordinance and this amendment do not reduce residential density for any parcel utilized by the Department of Housing and Community Development in determining compliance with housing element law.

The allowance of these uses will not alter the residential density of parcels within Humboldt County.

PURPOSE OF ORDINANCE

6. FINDING: The primary purpose of the ordinance is to provide further options for business organization of cannabis operations within the parameters of the Commercial Cannabis Land Use Ordinance Environmental Impact Report.

EVIDENCE: a) The Amendments to the Commercial Cannabis Microbusiness Standards Ordinance and text amendment will provide options to add manufacturing to cannabis operations and redefine operations as microbusinesses by providing a ZCC means of approval. The amendment aligns with the EIR by preventing a significant increase

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Certified copy of portion of proceedings, Meeting of November 18, 2025

RESOLUTION NO.

in vehicle trips from sites utilizing this means of approval.

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

1. Adopt the Amendments to the Commercial Cannabis Microbusiness Standards Ordinance; and
2. Direct the Clerk of the Board to publish the Post-Adoption Summary of the Ordinance within fifteen (15) days after its passage.

Dated: _____

Supervisor Michelle Bushnell, Chair
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors

Adopted on motion by Supervisor _____, Seconded by Supervisor _____,
and the following vote:

AYES: Supervisors: --

NAYES: Supervisors: --

ABSENT: Supervisors: --

ABSTAIN: Supervisors: --

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

County of Humboldt

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Certified copy of portion of proceedings, Meeting of November 18, 2025

RESOLUTION NO.

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