

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

Resolution Number 26-026

Record Number PLN-2026-19541

Recommending that the Board of Supervisors make the required findings to amend the Safety Element to include updated a Hazard Mitigation Plan (Chapter 14 of the General Plan)

WHEREAS, The County of Humboldt recognizes the threat that natural hazards pose to people and property within our community; and

WHEREAS, undertaking hazard mitigation actions will reduce the potential for harm to people and property from future hazard occurrences; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Congress passed the Disaster Mitigation Act (2000) emphasizing the need for pre-disaster mitigation of potential hazards; and

WHEREAS, an adopted Local Hazard Mitigation Plan is required as a condition of future funding for mitigation projects under multiple FEMA pre- and Post-disaster mitigation grant programs; and

WHEREAS, The Humboldt County Board of Supervisors adopted the first Operational Area Hazard Mitigation Plan in 2019 which was incorporated into the Safety Element in 2023; and

WHEREAS, Humboldt County desires to continue in compliance with the requirements of the federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 and the requirements of AB 2140;

WHEREAS, State law requires updates to the Safety Element or Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) to incorporate updated mapping, risk analysis, and other data associated with hazard conditions within the County, including new data and applicable policies around particular topics, such as evacuation routes, identification of building footprints, drainage maintenance, and clearances around structures pursuant to Government Code Section 65302(g)(1); and

WHEREAS The Local Hazard Mitigation Plan is only approved for a period of 5 years so the 2019 County LHMP expired in 2025 and each time it is updated it must be it must be adopted again into the Safety Element; and

WHEREAS, On December 9, 2025, the Board of Supervisors adopted the Multi-Jurisdiction

Hazard Mitigation Plan. The LHMP was approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency on December 19, 2025; and

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

CONSISTENCY WITH THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA).

1. FINDING: The amendment to the Safety Element to include the updated Hazard Mitigation Plan (Chapter 14 of the General Plan) is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Sections 15061(b)(3) because it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the proposed amendments may have a significant effect on the environment.

EVIDENCE:

- a) The LHMP does not allow or promote new development.
- b) The purpose of the LHMP is to identify natural hazards that exist in the county and develop approaches to minimize the impact of those hazards.
- c) The net result is intended to be a net reduction in impacts from natural occurring disasters that could damage development and other valuable natural resources.

CONSISTENCY WITH THE GENERAL PLAN.

2. FINDING: The amendment to the Humboldt County General Plan is necessary because the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan is only valid for a period of 5 years and each time it is updated it must be re-incorporated into the General Plan Safety Element.

EVIDENCE:

- a) Reflected in the July 10, 2023, letter from the California Office of Emergency Services.
- b) The previous LHMP expired in 2025, and an updated LHMP was adopted in 2025. This action incorporated the LHMP into the Safety Element of the General Plan.
- c) This action will bring the County General Plan into compliance with Government Code Section 65302.6.

3. FINDING: Humboldt County General Plan and state General Plan Law stipulate the General Plan Amendment must be in the public interest. The proposed amendment is in the public interest.

- EVIDENCE:**
- a) This action will bring the Safety Element into conformance with state requirements and the Disaster Management Act of 2000.
 - b) The LHMP provides a framework to understand local hazards and to develop adaptive plans to address this in the light of climate change which has the effect of protecting people and property from the impacts of hazardous conditions.
 - c) This action provides the opportunity for the county to receive reimbursement for disaster relief.

CONSISTENCY WITH STATE GENERAL PLAN LAW.

4. FINDING: Government Code Section 65302.8 requires any General Plan Amendment that operates to limit the number of housing units which may be constructed on an annual basis to contain findings which justify reducing the housing opportunities of the region. The proposed amendment does not limit the number of housing units which may be constructed on an annual basis.

- EVIDENCE:**
- a) The purpose of the Safety Element amendments is to comply with requirements of state law.
 - b) The LHMP does not rezone property or change the density of any property identified as needed to meet housing demands.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Planning Commission recommends that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Humboldt:

1. Hold a public hearing in the manner prescribed by law.
2. Adopt the required findings prepared by Planning Staff.
3. Adopt the Humboldt County Operational Area Hazard Mitigation Plan by reference into the Safety Element of the General Plan in accordance with the requirements of AB 2140.
4. Adopt the Planning Commission recommended Safety Element Update as a part of the General Plan in accordance California Government Code Section 65302(g).
5. Direct staff to submit the adoption resolution to the California Office of Emergency Services and FEMA Region IX officials to enable the plan's final approval in accordance with the requirements of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 and to establish conformance with the requirements of AB 2140.

Adopted after review and consideration of all the evidence on **May 21, 2026**

The motion was made by Commissioner Lorna McFarlane and seconded by Commissioner Iver Skavdal and the following vote:

AYES: Commissioners: Iver Skavdal, Todd Fulton, Jerome Qiriazzi, Sarah West, Lorna McFarlane

NOES: Commissioners:

ABSTAIN: Commissioners:

ABSENT: Commissioners: Noah Levy, Peggy O'Neill

DECISION: Motion carries 5/0

I, John H. 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 H. Ford, Director,
Planning and Building Department