

**RESOLUTION OF THE ZONING ADMINISTRATOR  
OF THE COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT**

**Resolution Number 26-**

**Record Number PLN-2025-19456**

**Assessor's Parcel Number: 518-012-002**

**Resolution by the Zoning Administrator of the County of Humboldt certifying compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act and conditionally approving the Caltrans Coastal Development Permit**

**WHEREAS**, Caltrans District 1, submitted an application and evidence in support of approving a Coastal Development Permit for the installation of a replacement well; 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**, the lead agency for the project, Caltrans determined the project is statutorily exempt from environmental review per Section 15269 (d), projects undertaken by an approved agency to repair an existing highway damaged by flood. As a Responsible Agency under CEQA concurs with this 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 (Case Number: PLN-2025-19456); and

**WHEREAS**, the Humboldt County Zoning Administrator held a duly noticed public hearing on April 16, 2026, and reviewed, considered, and discussed the application for the CDP and reviewed and considered all evidence and testimony presented at the hearing.

**Now, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Zoning Administrator makes all of the following findings:

- 1. FINDING:**                    **Project Description:** A follow-up Coastal Development Permit (CDP) to a previously approved Emergency CDP (PLN-2025-19455) for the installation of a new stormwater DI (drainage inlet), connected to the existing stormwater DI in the pullout with an extended 47 feet of pipe. The existing drainage system is non-functional and is being extended to properly collect water and transport it downslope.

**EVIDENCE:** a) Project File: PLN-2025-19456

**2. FINDING:** **CEQA:** The proposed project is statutorily exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

**EVIDENCE:** a) As lead agency for the project, Caltrans determined the project is statutorily exempt from environmental review per Section 15269 (d), projects undertaken by an approved agency to repair an existing highway damaged by flood. As a Responsible Agency under CEQA, the zoning administrator has considered the exemption determination made by the Caltrans.

b) The project is to repair damage to Highway 101, caused by flooding.

#### **FINDINGS FOR COASTAL DEVELOPMENT PERMIT**

**3. FINDING:** The proposed development is in conformance with all applicable policies and standards in the Humboldt County Zoning Regulations

**EVIDENCE:** a) Supplemental findings section 312-39.14 coastal wetlands: There is no less environmentally damaging feasible alternative, the best mitigation measures feasible have been provided to minimize adverse environmental effects, and the required mitigation will maintain or enhance the functional capacity of the wetland. As described, the project meets these criteria. The wetland was created by the construction of Highway 101, the project will preserve the highway and the wetland.

b) Supplemental findings section 312-39.15 Coastal Wetland Buffers: The project is the replacement and repair of existing drainage infrastructure for Highway 101. The project is sited and designed to prevent impacts which would significantly degrade wetland habitat areas and is compatible with the continuation of existing wetlands. The biological productivity and the quality of coastal waters, streams, wetlands, estuaries, and lakes will be maintained with the project as described.

**4. FINDING:** The proposed development is in conformance with all applicable policies and standards in the North Coast Area Plan, Open Space Plan, and the Open Space Action Program.

- EVIDENCE:**
- a) The property is designated Commercial Timberland (TC) under the North Coast Area Plan which allows as a principal use the development of roads and road related infrastructure.
  - b) The parcel is zoned Public Recreation with special combining zone designations of Archaeological Resource Area Outside Shelter Cove (A), Coastal Elk Habitat (E), Coastal Wetlands (W), Design Review (D), Beach and Dune Areas (B), Flood Hazard Areas (F), Streams and Riparian Corridor Protection (R)
  - c) The proposed culvert repair and extension is required for the safe operation of public infrastructure which is principally permitted in the zone.
  - d) During project scoping a small wetland area was mapped in the field where water collects on the upslope side of the road prism. The wetland has been deemed an isolated wetland and is not federally jurisdictional. There are no bed/bank/channel waterways in the project footprint, thus there will be no impacts to Coastal Wetlands. There are no mapped water courses within 400 feet of the project area. Any short-term impacts are mitigated by the project description:

Temporary Impacts - Restoration Plan:

1. Excavate soil to keep seed bank and wetland soil intact.
2. Stockpile on site on already disturbed area (on pullout).
3. Use wetland mats if driving construction equipment over wetland is unavoidable.
4. Replace intact soil after excavation.
5. Monitor annually for up to 3 years to determine if wetland area has revegetated/recovered.
6. If wetland area has not recovered after 36 months, mitigation may be needed.

- e) A Caltrans archeologist has determined a finding of no potential to affect historical and/or cultural resources within the project area, the closest being 0.2 miles north. The project was referred to the Northwest Information Center (NWIC), the Trinidad Rancheria, and the Yurok Tribe. NWIC responded recommending further study and that the County consult with local tribes. The standard Inadvertent Discovery conditions are included within the conditions of approval for the project.
- f) The property is located within a Flood Hazard Areas (F) combining zone which is intended to minimize public and private losses due to flood and tsunami conditions in specific areas of the County. The project will reduce the risk of flooding that will impact Highway 101.
- g) The property is located within a Streams and Riparian Corridors Protection (R) combining zone due to its location adjacent to Big Lagoon. The project description includes Restoration Plan to prevent any temporary impacts to watercourses.
- h) The Property is in the Design Review combining zone. The project meets the design criteria for the area. The new drainage inlet will not impede the scenic character of the area. The project does not include any beaches or dunes.
- i) The parcel is zoned Public Recreation (PR) Principally permitted uses in the zone Public Recreation and Open Space, Coastal Access Facilities, and Minor Utilities to serve these uses. Highway 101 serves as a public recreation facility and the drainage inlet is a minor utility to serve that use.

**5. FINDING:** The proposed development is in conformance with all applicable policies and standards of the North Coast Area Plan.

**EVIDENCE:** a) The site is designated as Commercial Timber (TC) in the North Coast Area Plan which allows the construction of roads and road related infrastructure as a principally permit use. The project is for the replacement of and extension of a failed drainage inlet to prevent flooding of Highway 101.

- b) The project was referred to NWIC, Trinidad Rancheria, Big Lagoon Rancheria, and the Yurok Tribe for input. A Caltrans archeologist has determined a finding of no potential to affect historical and/or cultural resources within the project area, the closest being 0.2 miles north of the project site. Cultural Screening Memo for 0Q070 is on file and confidential. The standard inadvertent discovery protocol is included in the project's conditions for approval. As a result, the project is consistent with Section 3.27 and 3.39 of the North Coast Area Plan which requires mitigation measures where new development would adversely impact archaeological resources.
- c) The project is adjacent to State Highway 101, on the inland side of the highway. The area of disturbance is 872 square feet; no trees will be removed. The potential for negative impacts to Elk Habitat are minimal.
- d) The North Coast Area Plan states that the scenic and visual qualities of coastal areas should be considered and protected as a resource of public importance. The project is in an area of designated Coastal scenic views. The project will have no negative impacts on Coastal scenic views. The completed project will not be evident from the highway. No trees will be removed for the project.
- e) The North Coast Area Plan states that the scenic and visual qualities of coastal areas should be considered and protected as a resource of public importance. The project is in a Coastal scenic area. The completed project will not be evident from the highway. No trees will be removed for the project. The project will not have negative impacts on Coastal Scenic areas.
- f) Section 3.4 30233(a)5, Resource Protection Policies and Standards, states disturbance of wetlands for the purpose of burying pipes shall be allowed where there is no feasible less environmentally damaging alternative, and where feasible mitigation measures have been provided to minimize adverse environmental effects. As stated in the project description the project meets these criteria.

**6. FINDING:** The proposed development will not adversely impact the environment, and will not be detrimental to the public health, safety or welfare and will not be materially injurious to properties or improvements in the vicinity.

**EVIDENCE:** a) This project will not impact other properties or improvements; all work is proposed in the Caltrans right of way or on the parcel. The replacement and extension of a failed drainage inlet will have no adverse impact on the public health, safety and welfare.

**7. FINDING:** The proposed Drainage Inlet repair and extension 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 project will not conflict with any provisions of the County Housing Element. The parcel is not identified in the housing inventory that has been utilized for HCD purposes, and the proposed development will help maintain transportation infrastructure that supports the total amount of housing units available in the County.

**8. FINDING:** The proposed project will not impact sovereign lands, such as tide and submerged lands and navigable waterways, or the benefit, use and enjoyment of the public. These lands are held in trust by the State of California for the statewide public and for uses that further the purposes of the trust. The project will not impact publicly beneficial uses that connect the public to the water.

**EVIDENCE:** a) The project will reduce the risk of flooding which could introduce sediment into Big Lagoon, a popular area for recreational boating, swimming, and fishing.

## DECISION

**NOW, THEREFORE**, based on the above findings and evidence, the Humboldt County Zoning Administrator does hereby:

- Adopt the findings set forth in this resolution; and
- Finds the Zoning Administrator has considered and concurred with the CEQA exemption determination made by Caltrans, Lead Agency, finding the project statutorily exempt from environmental review per Section 15269 (d), as responsible agency; and
- Conditionally approves the Caltrans District 1 Coastal Development Permit based upon the Findings and Evidence and subject to the conditions of approval attached hereto as Attachment 1 and incorporated herein by reference; and

Adopted after review and consideration of all the evidence on **April 16, 2026**.

I, John H. Ford, Zoning Administrator 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 Zoning Administrator at a meeting held on the date noted above.

---

John H. Ford, Director,  
Planning and Building Department