

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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

RESOLUTION NO. 25-_____

RESOLUTION BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF HUMBOLDT COUNTY MAKING THE FINDINGS FOR ADOPTION OF THE HUMBOLDT REGIONAL CLIMATE ACTION PLAN AND ADOPTING THE HUMBOLDT REGIONAL CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

WHEREAS, in 2006, AB 32, the “California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006,” was signed into law and codifies the Statewide goal of reducing GHG emissions to 1990 levels by 2020 and requires CARB to prepare a Scoping Plan that outlines the main State strategies for reducing GHG emissions to meet the 2020 deadline; and

WHEREAS, on September 2018, the Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution in support of the Paris Agreement and committed to reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions through the implementation of a Climate Action Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Humboldt Regional Climate Action Plan (RCAP) implements Policy AQ-P9 of the Air Quality Element in the General Plan, which calls for the “development of a multi-jurisdictional Climate Action Plan (CAP) to achieve reductions in GHG emissions consistent with the State Global Warming Solutions Act (Assembly Bill 32) and subsequent implementing legislation and regulations”; and

WHEREAS, the RCAP initiates Implementation Measure AQ-IM3 in the Air Quality Element of the General Plan, which states “develop and implement a CAP that effectively mitigates the carbon emissions attributable to this Plan, consistent with the requirements of the State Global Warming Solutions Act and subsequent implementing legislation and regulations”; and

WHEREAS, on September 8, 2016, the governor signed SB 32 into law, extending AB 32 by requiring the State to further reduce GHGs to 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030 (the other provisions of AB 32 remain unchanged). The bill charges CARB to adopt the regulation so that the maximum technologically feasible emissions reductions are achieved in the most cost-effective way; and

WHEREAS, in September 2022, AB 1279 was adopted, which codifies the Statewide carbon neutrality goal into a legally binding requirement for California to achieve carbon neutrality no later than 2045 and ensure 85 percent GHG emissions reduction under that goal. AB 1279 builds upon EO B-55-18 that originally established California’s 2045 goal of carbon neutrality; and

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WHEREAS, the RCAP is a regional plan that identifies targets, strategies, measures and actions to achieve state goals for GHG emissions reduction to 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030 and carbon neutrality by 2045, in line with AB 32, SB 32 and AB 1279; and

WHEREAS, the RCAP has been prepared pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15183.5(b) which allows the streamlining of GHG emissions analysis for projects requiring CEQA that can show consistency with the applicable measures in the RCAP; and

WHEREAS, the Humboldt County Planning Commission held a public workshop on the RCAP on August 7, 2025; and

WHEREAS, on October 16, 2025, the Humboldt County Planning Commission held a duly noticed public hearing on the RCAP and recommended that Board of Supervisors approve the resolution to adopt the RCAP; and

WHEREAS, on December 16, 2025, the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors held a duly noticed public hearing on the RCAP to adopt the RCAP.

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

PUBLIC INTEREST

1. FINDING: Adopting the RCAP would have several legal, regionwide and statewide environmental benefits and is, therefore, in the public interest.

- EVIDENCE:**
- a) Adoption and implementation of the plan will result in the reduction of local GHG emissions and would, therefore, improve local air quality and benefit public health.
 - b) Adopting the RCAP provides legal benefits to the County by acting on Policy AQ-P9 and Implementation Measure AQ-IM3 of the Air Quality Element in the General Plan.
 - c) The RCAP is a mitigation measure for the 2017 General Plan update, and adopting the RCAP is necessary to comply with regional mandates for reducing GHG emissions and to achieve broader environmental goals.
 - d) Adopting the RCAP would have significant regionwide benefits by addressing climate change issues such as reducing GHG emissions

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and increasing air quality, increasing the protection and management of natural and working lands, encouraging future restoration projects and increase biodiversity, and reducing wildfire risk. The plan would allow the County and other local government agencies to work towards achieving state goals in line with SB 32 and therefore assist the state in reaching their overall goals for reducing GHG emissions and addressing Statewide climate change.

- e) The plan would have significant regionwide environmental benefits such as increasing the protection and management of natural and working lands, encouraging future restoration projects and increase biodiversity, and reduce wildfire risk.

CONSISTENCY WITH THE GENERAL PLAN

2. FINDING: The adoption of the RCAP is consistent with the General Plan.

EVIDENCE: a) The adoption of the RCAP and CEQA GHG Emissions Thresholds is consistent with the following objectives of the General Plan:

- Goal PG-G2 Community Plans. “Coordinated regional plans that include more than one incorporated city, community, special district, and/or unincorporated area.”
- Policy G-P13 City-State-County Coordination. “Promote coordination between city, state, and County planning efforts through consistent communication, cooperative working relationships, and joint projects.”

In the Air Quality Element:

- Goal AQ-G4 Greenhouse Gas Emissions. “Successful mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions associated with this Plan to levels of non-significance as established by the Global Warming Solutions Act and subsequent implementation of legislation and regulations.”
- Policy AQ-P9 County Climate Action Plan. “Through public input and review, develop and implement a multi-jurisdictional Climate Action Plan (CAP) to achieve reductions in GHG emissions consistent with the State Global Warming Solutions

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Act (Assembly Bill 32) and subsequent implementing legislation and regulations.”

- Implementation Measure AQ-IM3 County-wide Climate Action Plan. “Develop and implement a CAP that effectively mitigates the carbon emissions attributable to this Plan, consistent with the requirements of the State Global Warming Solutions Act and subsequent implementing legislation and regulations.”
- Policy AQ-P1 Reduce Length and Frequency of Vehicle Trips. “Reduce the length and frequency of vehicle trips through land use and transportation policies by encouraging mixed-use development, compact development patterns in areas served by public transit, and active modes of travel.”
- Policy AQ-P13 Forest Sequestration and Biomass Energy. “Provide incentives for increased carbon sequestration on forest lands and encourage the reduction of smoke production through the utilization of excess forest biomass for sustainable energy generation and other uses.”
- Policy AQ-P14 Solar Electric System Capacity. “Encourage and provide incentives to increase solar-electric capacity in residential, commercial, and industrial sectors.”
- Policy AQ-P15 Energy Efficient Building Design. “Encourage and provide incentives for construction of buildings and energy saving measures beyond Title 24 requirements for residential and commercial projects.”
- Policy AQ-P16 Electric Vehicle Accommodations. “Encourage and provide incentives for commercial and residential design that supports the charging of electric vehicles.”
- Policy AQ-P17 Preservation and Replacement of On-site Trees. “Projects requiring discretionary review should preserve large trees, where possible, and mitigate for carbon storage losses attributable to significant removal of trees.”
- Standard AQ-S2 Evaluate Greenhouse Gas Emission Impacts. “During environmental review of large scale residential,

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commercial and industrial projects, include an assessment of the project's GHG emissions and require feasible mitigation consistent with best practices documented by the California Air Pollution Control Officers Association in their 2008 white paper "CEQA & Climate Change" or successor documents.

In the Energy Element:

- Goal E-G1 Countywide Strategic Energy Planning. "An effective energy strategy based on self-sufficiency, development of renewable energy resources and energy conservation that is actively implemented countywide through Climate Action Plans, General Plans and the Redwood Coast Energy Authority's Comprehensive Energy Action Plan."
- Goal E-G2 Increase Energy Efficiency and Conservation. "Decrease energy consumption through increased energy conservation and efficiency in building, transportation, business, industry, government, water and waste management."
- Goal E-G3 Supply of Energy from Local Renewable Sources. "Increased local energy supply from a distributed and diverse array of renewable energy sources and providers available for local purchase and export."
- Policy E-P1 Energy Conservation Standards and Incentives. "Develop incentives to encourage residential and commercial building plans that exceed California Building Standards Code requirements for energy."
- Policy E-P3 Local Renewable Energy Supply. "The County shall support renewable energy development projects including biomass, wind, solar, "run of the river" hydroelectric, and ocean energy, consistent with this Plan that increases local energy supply."
- Policy E-P4 Transportation Energy Conservation and Alternative Fuels Substitution. "Support revitalization and infill projects within Urban Development Areas as a means to reduce long-term vehicle miles traveled as an energy conservation strategy. Support the development and

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implementation of Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations and other alternative fueling infrastructure.”

- Policy E-P8 Electrical Transmission. “Promote PG&E funded capacity upgrades to electric distribution lines to facilitate distributed renewable energy production and electricity export from the county.”
- Policy E-P16 Sustainable Biomass Energy Production. “Coordinate with local agencies, communities, and landowners to develop biomass energy plans that are consistent with forest management, hazardous fuels reduction, and restoration needs and priorities.”
- Implementation Measure E-IM2 Comprehensive Action Plan for Energy. “Support efforts to implement the Redwood Coast Energy Authority (RCEA) Comprehensive Action Plan for Energy.”

In the Circulation Element:

- Policy C-P23 Public Transit Service. “The County shall coordinate and integrate with transportation providers so that a full range of travel patterns and connectivity with other modes of transportation are provided.”
- Policy C-P24 Long Term Transit Plan. “The County shall support HCAOG’s long term transit planning with the goal of increasing the percentage of public transit trips compared to automobile trips.”
- Policy C-P25 County-Wide Transportation Plan. “The County shall maintain a clear plan for development and improvement of multi-modal transportation infrastructure consistent with land use plans, intended community character and community priorities.”
- Policy C-P28 Bicycles and Pedestrian Facilities in New Subdivisions. “Bicycle and pedestrian facilities should be encouraged to connect neighborhoods. Standards for urban, suburban, rural and remote contexts shall be developed.”

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- Policy C-P35 Protection of Designated Pedestrian and Bicycle Routes. “New development along and adjacent to planned and designated pedestrian and bicycle routes shall consider and incorporate those routes.”
- Policy C-P36 Bicycle Facilities. “Encourage the planned placement of secure and/or weather-protected bicycle storage facilities at public buildings and bus stops, where appropriate. Incentivize placement of bicycle parking and storage at businesses, new or modified bus stops and multi-family housing.”
- Policy C-P39 Encourage Bicycle and Pedestrian-Friendly Development. “Incentives should be given to developers who provide non-motorized facilities that connect neighborhoods in a design appropriate to the character of those neighborhoods.”
- Standard C-S9 Prioritization of Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities and Routes. “Objective criteria shall be used to prioritize construction of pedestrian and bicycle facilities and routes.”
- Implementation Measure C-IM4 Regional Coordination. “Support and participate in joint circulation system and land use planning with HCAOG, affected cities, Caltrans, and other transportation agencies and providers.”
- Implementation Measure C-IM7 Transit Infrastructure. “Work with regional transit providers to situate transit stops and hubs at locations that are convenient for transit users, and promote increased transit usage through the provision of shelters, benches, and other amenities.”
- Implementation Measure C-IM8 Park and Ride Facilities. “Support Caltrans’ efforts to add park-and-ride lots at locations as appropriate.”
- Implementation Measure C-IM10 Transit Service to East, South and North County. “Pursue funding and partnerships with the Humboldt Transit Authority, Native American tribes,

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and non-profit transportation organizations to establish and sustain transit services to rural communities.”

In the Waste Management Element

- Policy WM-P1 Implementation of Waste Reduction Programs. “Waste reduction, re-use and recycling programs should be implemented countywide on a continuous basis to achieve the maximum possible waste diversion rate.”
- Implementation Measure WM-IM2 Solid Waste Management Authority. “Continue the County’s participation in the Humboldt Waste Management Authority, including contracting and advocacy for the Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan and Source Reduction and Recycling Element.”

In other Elements of the General Plan

- Policy UL-P6 in the Land Use Element. Mixed-Use Zoning. “Utilize mixed-use zoning to help create town centers that are community focal points. The mixed-use zone shall promote higher density urban housing in concert with retail commercial uses, day care centers, and shopfronts, and shall include an abundance and variety of open spaces.”
- Goal IS-G3 Interagency Coordination, in the Infrastructure and Services Element. “Coordinated planning, prioritization, funding, and implementation of infrastructure and public service projects across jurisdictional boundaries.”
- Policy H-P17 Promote Infill, Reuse and Redevelopment. “The County shall promote infill, re-use and redevelopment of vacant and under-developed land within Urban Development Areas and Housing Opportunity Zones as a strategy to create affordable housing, provide an economic stimulus and re-vitalize community investment.”
- Policy CO-P4 Support for Working Lands. “The County shall support policies that maintain profitable resource production on timber and agricultural lands as a means to secure long-

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term protection and sustainability of open space lands through programs such as the Williamson Act and Timber Production Zone programs.”

CONSISTENCY WITH STATE PLANNING LAW

3. FINDING: The RCAP was developed in accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15183.5(b)(1) which allows the streamlining of GHG emissions analysis for projects requiring CEQA that can show consistency with the RCAP.

- EVIDENCE:**
- a) CEQA Guidelines Section 15183.5(b)(1)(A) states that a plan for the reduction of GHG emissions should quantify greenhouse gas emissions, both existing and projected over a specified time period, resulting from activities within a defined geographic area. This is included in the RCAP and RCAP Appendix B *GHG Inventory, Forecast and Targets Report*.
 - b) CEQA Guidelines Section 15183.5(b)(1)(B) states that a plan for the reduction of GHG emissions should establish a level, based on substantial evidence, below which the contribution to greenhouse gas emissions from activities covered by the plan would not be cumulatively considerable. This is included in the RCAP and RCAP Appendix B *GHG Inventory, Forecast and Targets Report*, which establish levels of GHG emissions for 2030 and 2045 that would not be cumulatively considerable.
 - c) CEQA Guidelines Section 15183.5(b)(1)(C) states that a plan for the reduction of GHG emissions should identify and analyze the greenhouse gas emissions resulting from specific actions or categories of actions anticipated within the geographic area. This is included in the RCAP and RCAP Appendix B *GHG Inventory, Forecast and Targets Report*.
 - d) CEQA Guidelines Section 15183.5(b)(1)(D) states that a plan for the reduction of GHG emissions should specify measures or a group of measures, including performance standards, that substantial evidence demonstrates, if implemented on a project-by-project basis, would collectively achieve the specified emissions level. Measures and actions have been identified in the RCAP, and

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substantial evidence for achieving the specified GHG emission reduction targets is demonstrated in the RCAP Appendix C *Substantial Evidence Report*.

- e) CEQA Guidelines Section 15183.5(b)(1)(E) states that a plan for the reduction of GHG emissions should establish a mechanism to monitor the plan's progress toward achieving the level and to require amendment if the plan does not achieve specified levels. RCAP measures and actions will be implemented in phases and progress reports will be prepared annually by the Regional Climate Committee and presented to the Board of Supervisors to measure progress and establish accountability for achieving RCAP GHG emissions reduction goals. The progress reports will include the preparation of a current Countywide GHG emissions inventory and status update on implementation of the RCAP measures and actions. Tracking implementation of the plan in conjunction with the inventory updates will demonstrate the progress the region is making in achieving 2030 goals. If the measures and actions identified in the RCAP for meeting the 2030 goals are not implemented or if the annual progress report indicates that the region is off-track from achieving the 2030 goal, the RCAP will be updated to include additional actions or revised actions to meet the 2030 goals. The RCAP will also be updated in 2030 to identify measures and actions to meet the 2045 targets.
- f) CEQA Guidelines Section 15183.5(b)(1)(F) states that a plan for the reduction of GHG emissions should be adopted in a public process following environmental review.

An Environmental Impact Report has been prepared to assess the potential environmental impacts from the RCAP being adopted through public process.

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DECISION

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

1. Adopt the above findings and evidence supporting adoption of the Humboldt Regional Climate Action Plan; and
2. Adopt the Humboldt Regional Climate Action Plan.

Dated:

Supervisor Mike Wilson, Chair

Humboldt County Board of Supervisors

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

AYES: Supervisors --

NAYS: Supervisors --

ABSENT: Supervisors --

ABSTAIN: Supervisors --

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)

County of Humboldt)

I, Kaleigh Maffei, 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.

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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