

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

Resolution Number 26-013

Record Number PLN-2023-18813

Recommending that the Board of Supervisors make the required findings to adopt the amendment to the Inland Safe Parking – Safe Shelter Pilot Program 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, Humboldt County initiated the zoning ordinance changes herein to implement its General Plan Housing Element, which through Implementation Measure H-IM56 directs the County to fund and implement a safe parking pilot program, and adopt an enabling ordinance or resolution for the pilot program; and

WHEREAS, California Government Code Chapter 7.8, Shelter Crisis Section 8698.4 allows the use of Emergency Housing building standards to be applied under this ordinance during an active shelter crisis declaration; and

WHEREAS, on February 27, 2018, the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors declared a local shelter crisis; and

WHEREAS, Safe Parking – Safe Shelter sites are classified as emergency shelters under Government Code Section 65583(a)(4), and are principally permitted in designated zones; and

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2022, the Humboldt County Planning Commission held a public hearing on the Inland Safe Parking – Safe Shelter Pilot Ordinance, and with a 7-0 vote recommended the Board of Supervisors adopt the Safe Parking – Safe Shelter Pilot Program Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, on June 7, 2022, the Board of Supervisors held a public hearing on the Inland Safe Parking – Safe Shelter Pilot Program Ordinance, and with a 4-0 vote approved the Inland Safe Parking – Safe Shelter Pilot Program Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, the provisions of the Inland Safe Parking – Safe Shelter Pilot Program Ordinance were set to expire 18 months from the effective date, and on January 9, 2024, the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors voted 3-0 to approve an extension for an additional 24 months in line with Assembly Bill 2553 and the State’s decision to extend the provisions of California Government Code Chapter 7.8, Shelter Crisis Section 8698 until January 1, 2026; and

WHEREAS, on March 19, 2026, the Planning Commission held a public hearing on amendments to, and to extend the provisions of the Inland Safe Parking – Safe Shelter Pilot Program Ordinance until January 1, 2036, in line with Senate Bill 1395 and the State’s decision to extend the provisions of California Government Code Chapter 7.8, Shelter Crisis Section 8698 until January 1, 2036.

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

- 1. FINDING:** **Record Description:** An amendment to the Inland Safe Parking – Safe Shelter Pilot Program Ordinance (Section 314-61.05 HCC), and to extend the provisions of the Inland Safe Parking – Safe Shelter Pilot Program Ordinance until January 1, 2036, in line with Senate Bill 1395 and the State’s decision to extend the provisions of California Government Code Chapter 7.8, Shelter Crisis Section 8698 until January 1, 2036.

EVIDENCE: a) Record File: PLN-2023-18813

FINDINGS FOR CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT

- 2. FINDING:** The proposed project is exempt from environmental review.

- EVIDENCE:** a) The ordinance is exempt from environmental review under Section 21080(b)(4) of the Public Resources Code, specific actions necessary to prevent or mitigate an emergency, and is exempt from Section 15269(c) of the CEQA Guidelines, actions necessary to prevent or mitigate an emergency. The proposed amendment only extends the previously approved Inland Safe Parking – Safe Shelter Pilot Program Ordinance and includes updated language to require the compliance with current Building Code standards for emergency housing.
- b) The ordinance amendments will not change the density requirements within the General Plan. Extending the provisions for Safe Parking – Safe Shelter sites will continue to allow a government agency, religious institution, non-profit charitable organization, or private non-profit organization to operate a Safe Parking – Safe Shelter site to provide homeless individuals and families living in a vehicle or outside a safe place to park or sleep at no cost while accessing services and would therefore have no possibility of causing a significant effect on the environment.

PUBLIC INTREST

3. FINDING: The amendments are in the public interest. Extending the Inland Safe Parking – Safe Shelter Pilot Program Ordinance to match the terms of California Government Code Section 8698.4 and amending the language in the ordinance to include the requirements of current California Building Code and California Residential Code for Emergency Housing standards is consistent with the purpose of the Zoning Ordinance.

- EVIDENCE:**
- a) The intent of the ordinance amendment to extend the allowance of streamlined temporary emergency housing standards for Safe Parking – Safe Shelter sites during a declared shelter crisis would allow for shelter and services to be provided to persons experiencing homelessness and is therefore in the public interest.
 - b) Amending the language in the ordinance to include the requirements of current California Building Code and California Residential Code for Emergency Housing standards would ensure that emergency housing provided in Safe Parking – Safe Shelter sites complies with building code and is in the public interest.

CONSISTENCY WITH THE GENERAL PLAN

4. FINDING: The amended Inland Safe Parking – Safe Shelter Pilot Program Ordinance is consistent with the General Plan.

- EVIDENCE:**
- a) The Inland Safe Parking – Safe Shelter Pilot Program Ordinance implements the Housing Element. The amended ordinance incorporates the Humboldt County General Plan’s goals, policies and standards as directed in Implementation Measure H-IM56. H-IM56 directs the County to fund and implement a safe parking pilot program and adopt an enabling ordinance or resolution for the pilot program.
 - b) The ordinance amendments do not change the existing provisions in the General Plan.

CONSISTENCY WITH STATE PLANNING LAW

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 amendment does not reduce residential density for any parcel utilized by the Department of Housing and Community Development in determining compliance with housing element law. The amendment will not reduce the potential residential density of parcels within Humboldt County.

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

1. Hold a public hearing in the manner prescribed by law; and
2. Adopt the required findings to approve the amendments to, and extension of, the Inland Safe Parking – Safe Shelter Pilot Program Ordinance; and
3. Adopt the Ordinance amending and extending the Inland Safe Parking – Safe Shelter Pilot Program Ordinance (Ordinance No. 2729) Title III, Division 1, Chapter 4 of Humboldt County Code, Section 314-61.05.

The foregoing Resolution is hereby passed and adopted after review and consideration of all the evidence on **March 19, 2026**.

The motion was made by COMMISSIONER NOAH LEVY and second by COMMISSIONER JEROME QIRIAZI and the following vote:

AYES: COMMISSIONERS: Sarah West, Jerome Qiriaz, Todd Fulton, Noah Levy, Peggy O'Neill

NOES: COMMISSIONERS:

ABSENT: COMMISSIONERS: Iver Skavdal, Lorna McFarlane

ABSTAIN: COMMISSIONERS:

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