

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Certified copy of portion of proceedings, Meeting of July 7, 2026

RESOLUTION NO. 26-_____

Record No. LRP-2023-18849

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT MAKING THE REQUIRED FINDINGS TO ADOPT THE COASTAL OUTDOOR LIGHTING ORDINANCE ADDING SECTION 313-105.1 OF CHAPTER 3 OF DIVISION 1 OF TITLE III OF THE HUMBOLDT COUNTY CODE, ESTABLISHING UNIFORM REGULATIONS FOR OUTDOOR LIGHTING WITHIN THE UNINCORPORATED COASTAL AREAS OF HUMBOLDT COUNTY AND AMENDING SECTIONS 313-138, 313-141, 313-147 AND 313-154 (DEFINITIONS).

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 set design guidelines for outdoor lighting to protect unincorporated Humboldt County from light pollution and light trespass; and

WHEREAS, on August 19, 2025, the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors adopted the Coastal Outdoor Lighting Ordinance No. 2768 and directed staff to transmit the ordinance to the California Coastal Commission for certification; and

WHEREAS, on February 4, 2026, the Coastal Commission conditionally certified the Coastal Outdoor Lighting Ordinance if modified in accordance with the suggested changes set forth in the Adopted Findings report of that same date, which are incorporated in the revised ordinance; and

WHEREAS, on Tuesday, June 23, 2026, a Notice of Public Hearing on proposed zoning amendments regarding outdoor lighting regulations in the coastal zone was published in the Eureka Times-Standard, a newspaper of general circulation in Humboldt County, for the Board of Supervisors meeting of July 7, 2026; and

WHEREAS, on July 7, 2026, the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors held a public hearing on the California Coastal Commission Certified Coastal Outdoor Lighting Ordinance.

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

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Certified copy of portion of proceedings, Meeting of July 7, 2026

CONSISTENCY WITH THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)

- 1. FINDING:** The requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act have been met. The Humboldt County Board of Supervisors has considered the project and finds the proposed project is exempt from environmental review pursuant to Section §15251(f) Exemption for Certified State Regulatory Programs of the State CEQA Guidelines.

EVIDENCE: a) Section 15251(f), Exemption for Certified State Regulatory Programs of the State CEQA Guidelines, identifies that approval of the ordinance by the California Coastal Commission is the functional equivalent of the environmental review process required by CEQA. The ordinance was certified by the California Coastal Commission on February 4, 2026.

PUBLIC INTEREST

- 2. FINDING:** Humboldt County Code Section 312-50.3.1 stipulates that amendments to the zoning code must be in the public interest. The proposed amendment is in the public interest.

EVIDENCE: a) The intent of the ordinance is to set design guidelines for outdoor lighting and maintain dark skies. Humboldt County is known for its dark skies, and the Coastal Outdoor Lighting Ordinance seeks to protect and preserve the dark skies by limiting light trespass and light pollution and is therefore in the public interest.

CONSISTENCY WITH THE COASTAL ACT

- 3. FINDING:** The proposed changes to the Zoning Ordinance are in conformity with the policies of Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 30200) of the Coastal Act. Chapter 3 of the Coastal Act sets forth policies regarding the following issues:

Access (including provisions for access with new development projects, public facilities, lower cost visitor facilities, and public access).

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Certified copy of portion of proceedings, Meeting of July 7, 2026

Recreation (including protection of water-oriented activities, ocean- front land protection for recreational uses, aquacultural uses, and priority of development purposes).

Marine Resources (including protecting biological productivity, prevent hazardous waste spills, diking, filling and dredging, fishing, revetments and breakwaters, and water supply and flood control).

Land Resources (including environmentally sensitive habitats, agricultural lands, timberlands, and archaeological resources).

Development (including scenic resources, public works facilities, safety, and priority of coastal dependent developments).

Industrial Development (including location and expansion, use of tanker facilities, oil and gas development and transport (both onshore and off), and power plants).

- EVIDENCE:**
- a) **Access:** The proposed ordinance with set design guidelines to limit light trespass and light pollution for outdoor lighting within the Coastal Zone. No impact to coastal access is anticipated because a lighting plan would be required to be submitted as part of a building permit for any new development.
 - b) **Recreation:** The proposed ordinance would set design guidelines to limit light trespass and light pollution for outdoor lighting within the Coastal Zone. The proposed amendment will not negatively impact coastal recreation.
 - c) **Marine Resources:** Proposed outdoor lighting will be located within areas designated for development. A lighting plan would be required to be submitted as part of a building permit for any new development and may require a Conditional Use Permit, or Coastal Development Permit in accordance with an associated Local Coastal Plan for consistency with the California Coastal Act. This review would ensure that the proposed work has been assessed and is not expected to cause any significant impacts to marine resources.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Certified copy of portion of proceedings, Meeting of July 7, 2026

- d) **Land Resources:** The amendment protects agricultural land and timberland because it sets guidelines for outdoor lighting to limit light trespass and light pollution.

Impacts on cultural and tribal cultural resources and impacts to environmentally sensitive habitat areas are not anticipated and remain protected.

- e) **Development:** Proposed outdoor lighting will be located within areas designated for development. A lighting plan would be required to be submitted as part of a building permit for any new development and may require a Conditional Use Permit, or Coastal Development Permit in accordance with an associated Local Coastal Plan for consistency with the California Coastal Act. Therefore, the proposed amendment will not negatively impact development in the coastal zone.

- f) **Industrial Development:** Proposed outdoor lighting will be located within areas designated for development. A lighting plan would be required to be submitted as part of a building permit for any new development and may require a Conditional Use Permit, or Coastal Development Permit in accordance with an associated Local Coastal Plan for consistency with the California Coastal Act. Therefore, the proposed amendment will not negatively impact coastal industrial development.

CONSISTENCY WITH STATE PLANNING LAW

4. **FINDING:** Humboldt County Code Section 312-50.3.4 requires any proposed amendment must not reduce the residential density for any parcel below that utilized by the California 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.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Certified copy of portion of proceedings, Meeting of July 7, 2026

EVIDENCE: a) The Coastal Outdoor Lighting Ordinance does not reduce residential density for any parcel utilized by the California Department of Housing and Community Development in determining compliance with housing element law.

The Coastal Outdoor Lighting Ordinance sets design guidelines for outdoor lighting and will not impact the residential density of Humboldt County.

PURPOSE OF ORDINANCE

5. FINDING: The primary purpose of an ordinance is to establish local laws and regulations, often addressing issues not covered by state or federal laws. Ordinances are used to regulate activities, fix legal rights and duties, or prohibit certain actions within a municipality or county.

EVIDENCE: a) The Coastal Outdoor Lighting Ordinance sets design guidelines for outdoor lighting which is currently not regulated. Humboldt County is known for its dark skies and the Coastal Outdoor Lighting Ordinance seeks to protect and preserve the dark skies by limiting light trespass and light pollution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors hereby:

1. Adopts the findings set forth in this resolution; and
2. Repeals Ordinance 2768; and
3. Adopts the Coastal Outdoor Lighting Ordinance as modified and certified by the California Coastal Commission; and
4. Directs the Planning Department to notify the Coastal Commission of the County's acceptance of the Commission's suggested modifications so that Commission Executive Director can determine that the acceptance is consistent with the Commission's action, and the Executive Director may report the determination to the Commission at the next regularly scheduled public meeting, at which point the modified Ordinance will become effective; and

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Certified copy of portion of proceedings, Meeting of July 7, 2026

5. Directs the Clerk of the Board to publish the Post-Adoption Summary (Attachment 3) of the Coastal Outdoor Lighting Ordinance within 15 days of its adoption.

The foregoing Resolution is hereby passed and adopted after review and consideration of all the evidence on **July 7, 2026**.

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, 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