



Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report and Public Scoping Meeting for the Humboldt County Regional Climate Action Plan

NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT AND PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

DATE: August 30, 2024

TO: Office of Planning and Research, Responsible Agencies, Trustee Agencies, Organizations, and Interested Parties

SUBJECT: **Notice of Preparation (NOP) of an Environmental Impact Report and Public Scoping Meeting for the Humboldt Regional Climate Action Plan**

PLAN NAME: Humboldt Regional Climate Action Plan

PLAN LOCATION: All unincorporated and incorporated areas of Humboldt County; see Figure 1

REVIEW PERIOD: August 30, 2024 to September 30, 2024 (30 days)

Humboldt County (County) is the Lead Agency pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and its implementing regulations, the CEQA Guidelines. The County intends to prepare a programmatic Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Humboldt Regional Climate Action Plan (RCAP). The County has prepared this Notice of Preparation (NOP) to provide Responsible Agencies, Trustee Agencies, potentially affected agencies, organizations, and other interested parties with information regarding this plan and its potential environmental effects, and to solicit your input on the scope and content of the EIR.

PLAN DESCRIPTION

The Draft RCAP was published on August 14, 2024 for public review. The RCAP includes strategies, measures, and actions addressing communitywide greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and establishes a target of a 40 percent reduction in GHG emissions below 1990 levels by 2030 and a longer-term goal of carbon neutrality by 2045. The 2030 GHG emissions target was selected to be consistent with California Senate Bill (SB) 32 State emissions targets and the CEQA Guidelines for a qualified GHG emissions reduction strategy, and to be achievable by the actions identified in the CAP. To achieve the Humboldt 2030 GHG emissions reduction target, the County has developed 29 measures related to carbon-free energy, building energy use, transportation, waste, water/wastewater, and carbon sequestration. In addition, the County proposes to adopt quantitative CEQA GHG emissions thresholds for use in evaluating whether a plan or project's GHG emissions would result in a potentially significant environmental impact under CEQA for plans or projects with pre-2030 buildout or initial operational years. The CEQA GHG emissions thresholds would be applied to plans or projects that cannot tier from the environmental analysis for the RCAP.

POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

The EIR will provide a programmatic evaluation of potential environmental impacts of the plan. The County has reviewed the RCAP and identified the following topics that have the potential for significant impacts:

- Aesthetics
- Air Quality
- Biological, Agricultural, and Forestry Resources
- Cultural/Tribal Cultural Resources
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Energy
- Land Use, Population, and Housing
- Noise and Vibration
- Transportation
- Utilities/Service Systems

PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD

The County invites interested parties to provide written comments as to your specific concerns about the plan's potential environmental effects. The County requests that any Responsible or Trustee Agency responding to this notice do so in a manner consistent with Section 15082(b) of the State CEQA Guidelines.

The 30-day review period starts on August 30, 2024, and ends on September 30, 2024. Due to the time limits mandated by State law, please send your written response to the address or email below at the earliest possible date, but no later than September 30, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. Please include your name and address for all correspondence.

Please send written comments to the following email or physical address:

Megan Acevedo, Associate Planner
macevedo@co.humboldt.ca.us
Humboldt County Planning and Building Department
Long Range Planning Division
3015 H Street
Eureka, California 95501

Any comments provided should identify specific topics of environmental concern and your reason for suggesting the study of these topics in the EIR. All written comment letters/emails will be included in an appendix in the Draft EIR and the contents considered in the preparation of the EIR.

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY AND WEBSITE

This Notice of Preparation and the Draft RCAP are available for view online at:
<https://humboldt.gov/2464/Humboldt-Regional-Climate-Action-Plan>

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

The County will conduct a public scoping meeting to solicit oral and written comments from interested parties on the scope and content of the EIR. All interested parties are invited to attend the scoping meeting to assist in identifying issues to be addressed in the EIR.

The scoping meeting will include a brief presentation of the plan scope to be addressed in the EIR, a summary of the EIR process, and will provide attendees with an opportunity to provide input to the scope and content of the EIR.

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for the Humboldt County Regional Climate Action Plan

The scoping meeting will be held on September 17, 2024 starting at 3:30 PM at the Ag Center (5630 S. Broadway Eureka, CA 95503) and online via Zoom:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84442771552?pwd=BNTVkryeW4bamOS0o5agkRCsdfXWYy.1>

Figure 1 Plan Location



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22-13470 EPS EIR Project Description
Fig. 2.2 Plan Location