



Notice of Availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Report and Public Meeting for Humboldt Regional Climate Action Plan and CEQA GHG Emissions Thresholds

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT AND PUBLIC MEETING

DATE: February 14, 2025

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

SUBJECT: **Notice of Availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Report and Public Meeting for the Humboldt Regional Climate Action Plan and CEQA Greenhouse Gas Emissions Thresholds**

PLAN NAME: Humboldt Regional Climate Action Plan and CEQA Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Thresholds

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

REVIEW PERIOD: February 14, 2025 to April 1, 2025 (45 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 has prepared a programmatic Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Humboldt Regional Climate Action Plan (RCAP) as well as Humboldt CEQA Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Thresholds. The County has prepared this Notice of Availability (NOA) to provide Responsible Agencies, Trustee Agencies, potentially affected agencies, organizations, and other interested parties with information regarding the DEIR and to solicit your comments on content of the DEIR.

PLAN DESCRIPTION

The RCAP includes strategies, measures, and actions addressing communitywide GHG emissions across unincorporated and incorporated portions of Humboldt County 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 RCAP. To achieve the Humboldt 2030 GHG emissions reduction target, the County has developed 30 measures related to carbon-free energy, building energy use, transportation, waste, water/wastewater, carbon sequestration, and refrigerants. In addition, the County proposes to adopt quantitative CEQA GHG emissions thresholds for use in evaluating whether a future 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.

ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

The DEIR provides a programmatic evaluation of potential environmental impacts of the RCAP with regard to the following resource topics:

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

The DEIR also evaluates three alternatives to the RCAP. Based on the impact analyses in the DEIR, the plan's potential impacts related to Land Use Planning, Population, and Housing, Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Energy, and Transportation would be less than significant. The DEIR identifies mitigation measures for Aesthetics, Air Quality, Biological, Agricultural, and Forestry Resources, Cultural/Tribal Cultural Resources, Noise, and Utilities/Service Systems. However, even with implementation of feasible mitigation measures, potential impacts to these resources were found to be significant and unavoidable. The analysis completed in DEIR Section 3.10, *Effects Found Not to be Significant*, determined that other issue areas would not have the potential to cause or otherwise result in significant environmental effects. The DEIR is programmatic in nature, and no specific project sites have been identified for future RCAP-related projects. As such, no project sites on any list of hazardous water or disposal sites as enumerated in Government Code Section 65962.5 are involved.

PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD

The County invites interested parties to provide written comments as to your specific concerns about the DEIR. The 45-day review period starts on February 14, 2025 and ends on April 1, 2025. 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 April 1, 2025, 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:

ceqaresponses@co.humboldt.ca.us

Humboldt County Planning and Building Department
Long Range Planning Division
3015 H Street
Eureka, California 95501

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY AND WEBSITE

This NOA and DEIR are available for view online at: <https://humboldt.gov/Climateactionplan>

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

The County will conduct a public meeting to discuss the DEIR and solicit comments from the public. All interested parties are invited to attend the meeting. The meeting will include a brief presentation of the results of the DEIR and will provide attendees with an opportunity to provide public comments on the DEIR.

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The DEIR public meeting will be held on March 18, 2025 starting at 6:00 p.m. at the Wharfinger Building
(1 Marina Way, Eureka, CA 95501) and online via Microsoft Teams:

Online: Meeting ID: 266 466 254 144, Passcode: z65jS9e7

Call in: Phone Number: +1 (949) 508-0813, Phone conference ID: 308 844 777#

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'M' followed by a horizontal line that curves downwards to the right, ending in a small arrowhead.

Megan Acevedo, Associate Planner
Planning and Building Department
Humboldt County

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Figure 1 Plan Location



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