

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

County Clerk
County of Humboldt
825 5th Street
Eureka, CA 95501

From: (Public Agency)
City Clerk
City of Ferndale
P.O. Box 1095
Ferndale, CA 95536
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Project Title: Ordinance 2024-01, an amendment to Section 6.05, Design Control Combining or D-Zone, of the Ferndale Zoning Ordinance.

Project Applicant: City of Ferndale

Project Location: City-wide to all parcels that are subject to the Design Control Combining or D-Zone pursuant to the Ferndale Zoning Map, City of Ferndale in Humboldt county.

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project: Design review permits are required for the construction or modification of structures within the Design Control Combining or -D Zone. The Design Review Committee is a five-member subsidiary body to the Planning Commission. Its members are appointed by the Council upon the recommendation of the Planning Commission. Decisions of the Design Review Committee are appealable to the Planning Commission. Ordinance 2024-01 eliminates the Design Review Committee and in its place tasks the Planning Commission with design review permit review and approval. Design review permits remain appealable to the Ferndale City Council.

Name of Public Agency Approving the Project: City of Ferndale

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: City of Ferndale

Lead Agency Contact: Michelle Nielsen Telephone: 707-825-8260

Exempt Status: Project is exempt under CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) the General Rule or Common Sense Exemption.

Reason Why the Project is Exempt: Adoption of Ordinance 2024-01 amends the Ferndale Zoning Ordinance is exempt from environmental review because it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment because no development or other physical change to the environment would be approved by amending the procedures for reviewing and approving design review permits. Ordinance 2024-01 does not modify or alter the existing design review development or performance standards, nor does it add or subtract properties that are subject to the Design Control Combining or D-Zone.

Exceptions to Categorical Exemption Applicability

The applicability of Categorical Exemption (CEs) is qualified by the exceptions listed in Section 15300.2(a) through (f) of the CEQA Guidelines. In the discussion below, each exception

(in italics) is followed by an explanation of why the exception does not apply to the proposed project.

15300.2(a) Location. This exception applies when the Categorical Exemptions specified in Classes 3, 4, 5, 6, and 11 are utilized. The proposed project does not utilize a Classes 3, 4, 5, 6, or 11 Categorical Exemption; therefore, this exception does not apply to the project.

15300.2(b) Cumulative Impact. The proposed amendment to the Zoning Ordinance changes the review and approval authority for design review permits from the Design Review Committee (DRC) to the Planning Commission; the proposed amendment does not change the design review standards.

15300.2(c) Significant Impact. Since no development or other physical change to the environment would be approved by amending the Design Review procedures, it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the adoption of the Ordinance amending to the Zoning Ordinance may have a significant effect on the environment in the City of Ferndale.

15300.2(d) Scenic Highways. There are no designated Scenic Highways in Ferndale city limits or nearby in the unincorporated area of Humboldt county; nor are there any scenic highways pending designation.

15300.2(f) Historic Resources. Ferndale's Main Street is designated as a Historic District and is on the National Register of Historic Places. The project is to modify the body designated to review and approve design review permits. Currently the DRC, a five-member subsidiary body to the Planning Commission, is the designated authority. The DRC's decisions are appealable to the Planning Commission. The amendment proposes to change the designated body from the DRC to the Planning Commission. The project does not include changes to standards for development in the Main Street Historic District or to the boundaries of the Historic District.



Contract City Planner Signature

October 17, 2024

Date: