

ATTACHMENT 1

**UNCODIFIED INTERIM URGENCY ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A
TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:
THE CONSTRUCTION OF / ACCEPTANCE OF APPLICATIONS FOR,
AND ISSUANCE OF ANY PERMIT, REGISTRATION OR
ENTITLEMENT FOR ANY OFF-PREMISE SIGNS/BILLBOARDS OR
ILLUMINATED SIGNS**

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT, STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Certified copy of portion of proceedings; meeting on _____, 2023

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN UNCODIFIED INTERIM URGENCY ORDINANCE OF THE COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT ESTABLISHING A TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON ACCEPTANCE OF APPLICATIONS FOR OFF-PREMISE SIGNS/BILLBOARDS OR ILLUMINATED SIGNS WITHIN THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF THE COUNTY, WHICH SHALL TAKE IMMEDIATE EFFECT.

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Humboldt ordains as follows:

SECTION 1. Findings and Declarations.

- A. Construction of new off-premise signs, billboards and illuminated signs may have adverse impacts on important scenic resources by blocking or otherwise impairing views of scenic resources from public roads.
- B. Construction of new billboards and illuminated signs may substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of sites and their surroundings by blocking or otherwise impairing views.
- C. The visual character and visual quality of public views of scenic resources are essential components of Humboldt County's identity and play a significant role in its economic vitality and quality of life.
- D. Humboldt County is preparing regulations which comprehensively review and update the standards for signs in the zoning ordinance as directed by the 2017 General Plan Implementation Measure UL-IM8 - Review and Update the Sign Ordinance. The County's General Plan is an expression of the public's desires for protection of public health, safety, and welfare.
- E. To protect public health, safety and welfare, the new regulations may limit or prohibit installation of new off premise and illuminated signs.
- F. Regulations which limit or even prohibit signs can evoke a desire to build or permit signs before the new regulations take effect.
- G. It is in the public interest to inform people that after-the-fact permitting of off-premise signs, billboards or illuminated signs put up during the moratorium will not be permitted.

- H. A temporary moratorium preventing applications for new off-premise signs, billboards or illuminated signs is necessary to avoid construction and/or permitting of billboards or illuminated signs while comprehensive modifications to the existing sign ordinance are developed and considered for adoption which balance the interests of businesses, residents and the public in protecting the scenic resources of the community.
- I. An influx of permit applications for any new off-premise signs, billboards and illuminated signs during the development of modifications to the existing sign ordinance would result in a current and immediate threat to the public health, safety, or welfare due to the high potential adverse impact on the scenic character of Humboldt County.
- J. Failure to enact a temporary moratorium would result in the above-described threat to the public health, safety, and welfare.

SECTION 2. Declaration of Urgency.

- A. Based on the findings set forth above, the Board finds and declares that there is a current and immediate threat to the public health, safety and welfare due to the allowance for permitting and construction of off-premise signs/billboards and illuminated signs in County Code.
- B. Based on the findings above, the Board of Supervisors determines that this interim urgency ordinance is urgently needed for the immediate preservation of the public health, safety, and welfare pursuant to Government Code sections 25123(d), and 65858, and is necessary to avoid construction and/or permitting of billboards or illuminated signs while comprehensive modifications to the existing sign ordinance are developed and considered for adoption which balance the interests of businesses, residents and the public in protecting public health, safety, welfare and scenic resources of the community in the unincorporated areas of Humboldt County.

SECTION 3. Moratorium.

In order to protect the public health, safety and welfare and pursuant to the provisions of Government Code sections 25123 (d) and 65858, during the term of this ordinance, including any extensions hereto, a moratorium is hereby placed on all the following: construction of, acceptance of applications for, and issuance of any permit, registration or entitlement for any off-premise signs/billboards or illuminated signs within the unincorporated areas of Humboldt County.

SECTION 4. Effective Date.

Pursuant to Government Code section 25123, subdivision (d), this urgency ordinance shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

SECTION 5. Enforceability.

Violations of this ordinance shall constitute a public nuisance and may be enforced and abated through any available remedy provided by the Humboldt County Code or other law.

SECTION 6. Expiration.

This moratorium shall be of no further force or effect upon the expiration of forty-five (45) days from the date of adoption, unless extended in accordance with Government Code Section 65858.

SECTION 7. Severability.

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or portion of this ordinance or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held to be invalid or unenforceable by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity shall not affect the remaining portions or other applications of the ordinance, and the provisions of this ordinance are declared to be severable.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2023.

AYES: Supervisors—
NOES: Supervisors—
ABSENT: Supervisors—

Steve Madrone, Chair
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors

(SEAL)

ATTEST:

Kathy Hayes, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
County of Humboldt

By _____
Deputy