

**RESOLUTION NO. PC-24-03**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF ARCATA PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDING THE CITY COUNCIL CERTIFY THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT PREPARED FOR THE GENERAL PLAN COMPREHENSIVE UPDATE AND THE GATEWAY CODE**

**WHEREAS**, the General Plan is the overarching plan for ensuring social justice and racial equity while balancing community growth, development, resource protection, provision of public services, circulation and mobility, housing access and affordability, economic development and job growth, capital infrastructure investment, climate adaptation, and quality of life in the City. The City Council adopted the last comprehensive update to the City’s General Plan in 1999 for the planning period ending 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, the City has been involved in the public process of updating the General Plan for the next 20-year planning period since 2017 and has engaged the community in each stage of the development of the revised General Plan and implementing Gateway Area Code, from concept to iterative draft document review, holding more than 180 public meetings; and

**WHEREAS**, the update to the General Plan and its implementation is subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA); and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the CEQA Guidelines (the “Guidelines”) CCR §15082, the public and interested agencies were informed of the City’s intent to evaluate the General Plan update evidenced in part by a Notice of Preparation published on February 3, 2022, by the Office of Planning and Research (State Clearing House #2022020107); and

**WHEREAS**, a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) was prepared and circulated for more than 45 days with Notice of Availability and the Draft EIR available through the State Clearinghouse, the City’s website, the Arcata Branch Library, and the City of Arcata Community Development Department for public review from January 26, 2024, with formal comment period open January 31 to March 18, 2024. The City held a public hearing on the EIR on March 12, 2024, at a regular meeting of the Planning Commission to provide additional opportunity for the public to provide comment on the Draft EIR; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines CCR §15089, a Final EIR was prepared with the contents specified in §15132 of the Guidelines, including responses to the comments received on the Draft EIR. The Planning Commission reviewed and evaluated the Final EIR on May 14, 2024; and

**WHEREAS**, substantive comments to the Draft EIR have been considered, addressed, and incorporated in the Final EIR. In light of the Final EIR, the processes and findings established in CEQA Guidelines §§15090-15093, inclusive, and in light of the whole of the record;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Planning Commission recommends the City Council of the City of Arcata:

1. Certify that the General Plan Draft and Final Environmental Impact Report dated January 26, 2024, and May 10, 2024, respectively, incorporated herein by reference:
  - a. has been completed in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (Guidelines § 15089(a)(1)) and Chapter 9.78 (Environmental Impact Assessment) of the Land Use Code;
  - b. the information contained in the Final EIR was reviewed and considered by the Planning Commission and City Council prior to approving the project (Guidelines § 15089(a)(2)); and
  - c. the Final EIR reflects the City Council’s independent judgement and analysis (Guidelines § 15089(a)(3)); and
2. Adopt the General Plan CEQA Findings of Fact and Statement of Overriding Considerations dated May 10, 2024, incorporated herein by reference, making the Findings of Fact pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21081 and State CEQA Guidelines Section 15091 as outlined in the Findings of Fact and Statement of Overriding Considerations and the Land Use Code 9.78.170; and the findings for the Statement of Overriding Considerations pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21081.6, and State CEQA Guidelines Section 15093 as outlined in the Findings of Fact and Statement of Overriding Considerations and the Land Use Code 9.78.170.C; and
3. Adopt the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program dated May 10, 2024, incorporated herein by reference.

Attest:

Approve:

\_\_\_\_\_  
David Loya,  
Community Development Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
Scott Davies, Chair  
Planning Commission

**Clerk's Certificate**

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of Resolution No. PC-24-03, passed and adopted at a regular meeting of the Planning Commission of the City of Arcata, County of Humboldt, California, held on \_\_\_\_\_, 2024.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS \_\_\_<sup>th</sup> day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTENTIONS:

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David Loya  
Deputy City Clerk