



STAFF REPORT – CITY COUNCIL MEETING

November 19, 2025

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

FROM: Netra Khatri, City Engineer

PREPARER: Joe Bishop, Building Official

DATE: November 19, 2025

TITLE: **Find Ordinance No. 1583 to be Exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act; and Introduce Ordinance No. 1583, An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Arcata Amending Title VIII of the Arcata Municipal Code and Adopting by Reference the 2025 California Building Standards Code, the Uniform Housing Code, the Uniform Code for the Abatement of Dangerous Buildings, and the Property Maintenance Code.**

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Council:

- 1) Find that adoption of Ordinance No. 1583 is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines for the reasons stated in Ordinance No. 1583; and
- 2) Introduce Ordinance No. 1583, An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Arcata Amending Title VIII of the Arcata Municipal Code and Adopting by Reference the 2025 California Building Standards Code, the Uniform Housing Code, the Uniform Code for the Abatement of Dangerous Buildings, and the Property Maintenance Code; Waive Reading of the Text, and Consent to Read by Title Only.

INTRODUCTION:

If adopted, this ordinance would modify the City's municipal code to incorporate the 2025 edition of Title 24, The California Building Standards Code, local modifications, and its companion codes.

BACKGROUND:

Title 24 is applicable to all occupancies throughout California as per Health and Safety Code (HSC) Sections 17950 and 18938(b). If a local government does not adopt Title 24 by ordinance, Title 24 becomes the applicable code for all building occupancies by default as per HSC Section 17958.

The State Housing Law requires local building department enforcement of the Law, building standards, and implementation of regulations of the Department of Housing and Community Development for residential structures. HSC, Sections 17950 and 18948.

Amendment by Local Ordinance: Local governments may amend Title 24, including the adoption of appendices. Local governments may also adopt other model codes, provided the adoption of such model codes does not conflict with state law, building standards or other adopted California regulations.

DISCUSSION:

Adoption of Ordinance No. 1583 will align the Arcata Municipal Code (AMC) with State Law, adopt appropriate appendices, and local modifications.

If introduced, the Ordinance will be brought back for Council adoption on December 17, 2025.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW (CEQA):

This ordinance is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines, the common sense exemption. The Ordinance implements state-mandated legislation aimed at reducing the reliance on fossil fuels, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and encouraging the use of fuel-efficient electric vehicles by requiring the ministerial issuance of building permits for installation of electric vehicle charging stations. It can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the adoption of this Ordinance may have a significant effect on the environment.

BUDGET/FISCAL IMPACT:

Not applicable as there is no immediate financial impact as a result of this ordinance.

RECOMMENDED COUNCIL ACTION:

1. Receive a Staff Report;
2. Open public comment;
3. Close public comment; and
4. Motion to:
 - 1) Find that adoption of Ordinance No. 1583 is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines for the reasons stated in Ordinance No. 1583; and
 - 2) Introduce Ordinance No. 1583, An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Arcata Amending Title VIII of the Arcata Municipal Code and Adopting by Reference the 2025 California Building Standards Code, the Uniform Housing Code, the Uniform Code for the Abatement of Dangerous Buildings, and the Property Maintenance Code; Waive Reading of the Text, and Consent to Read by Title Only.

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. Draft Ordinance No. 1583 Building Codes