

**RESOLUTION NO. PC 07-2024**

**RESOLUTION OF THE FORT BRAGG PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDING THAT THE CITY COUNCIL ADOPT AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 18.36 – PARKING AND LOADING OF DIVISION 18 OF THE FORT BRAGG MUNICIPAL CODE INCLUDING ILUDC SECTION 18.36.080 CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT SPECIAL PARKING COMBINING ZONE**

**WHEREAS**, California Constitution Article XI, Section 7, enables the City of Fort Bragg (the “City”) to enact local planning and land use regulations; and

**WHEREAS**, the authority to adopt and enforce zoning regulations is an exercise of the City’s police power to protect the public health, safety, and welfare; and

**WHEREAS**, the City adopted an Inland General Plan, including its Circulation Element, and certified an Environmental Impact Report Addendum (“EIR Addendum”) for the General Plan on December 2, 2012; and

**WHEREAS**, Circulation Element Section 5 Parking establishes goals, policies and related programs, for adequate off-street parking essential for Central Business District business, provision for an in-lieu fee to build additional off-street parking facilities and mentions the community-wide benefit of providing additional off-street parking facilities in the Central Business District; and

**WHEREAS**, the adoption of an Inland Land Use and Development Code is necessary to provide a regulatory framework for implementation of the Inland General Plan and to update zoning regulations in accordance with City Council policy direction; and

**WHEREAS**, the City adopted an Inland Land Use and Development Code and Negative Declaration on February 10, 2014, including [ILUDC Chapter 18.36 Parking and Loading](#), §18.36.060 *Bicycle Parking*, §18.36.080 *Reduction of Parking Requirements*, and establishing requirements for the Central Business District Special Parking Combining Zone; and

**WHEREAS**, the City has prioritized policies to keep the downtown vibrant; access to public transit on the Mendocino Coast is extremely limited; visitors and locals are often dependent on vehicles as a mode of transportation and beginning in 2022 the City desired to develop a *Comprehensive Parking Strategy*; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 23, 2023, the City Council sought proposals to create a *Comprehensive Downtown Parking Strategy* where the study would be substantially funded through an approved MCOG OWP planning grant; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 27, 2023, the City Council awarded a Professional Services Agreement to Walker Consultants for the preparation of a comprehensive downtown parking strategy and the term of this agreement was subsequently extended to April 30, 2023 by City Manager Isaac Whippy; and

**WHEREAS**, throughout 2023, the City of Fort Bragg technical advisory committee, including Assistant Planner Sarah Peters, Assistant Engineering Director Chantel O’Neal, Director Juliana Cherry, and Police Chief Neil Cervenka, meet regularly with Walker

Consultants to discuss Circulation Element goals, policies, and programs; Inland and Coastal Land Use and Development Codes; existing on-street parking practices and to survey the Central Business District parking on August 16, 2023; for the purpose of developing a comprehensive downtown parking strategy recommendation; and

**WHEREAS**, on August 16, 2023, the City of Fort Bragg hosted a walking tour of the Central Business District's on-street and off-street parking; and

**WHEREAS**, on August 17, 2023 and at Community Town Hall, Walker Consultants facilitated the Fort Bragg Downtown Parking and Access Study, which was an interactive workshop about on-street and off-street parking in the Central Business District; and the workshop was well attended by the public; and

**WHEREAS**, throughout August 2023, the public were invited to complete an online survey about parking in the Central Business District; and

**WHEREAS**, on December 11, 2023, and for the last dozen years, the City Council annually adopted a resolution to waive the in-lieu parking fee required by ILUDC §18.36.080.C.3; and

**WHEREAS**, on December 13, 2023, the Fort Bragg Planning Commission, as a Conduct of Business matter, participated in a downtown parking strategy study session facilitated by Walker Consultants; and

**WHEREAS**, adoption of this ordinance is not subject to CEQA because the adoptions are not a project, in that they do not involve any commitment to any specific project (CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(4)), and because it can be seen with certainty that as the City, in practice, has not enforced parking minimums in the Central Business District (CBD) since the year 2012, there is no possibility that the formal removal of parking minimums or in-lieu fees in the CBD will have a significant effect on the environment, in that this ordinance and resolution contains no provisions modifying the physical design, development, or construction of residences or nonresidential structures per CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3). Additionally, increasing bicycle parking space requirements across zones, and mandating that only required parking and loading spaces be limited to those uses in the absence of a Limited Term Permit, reduces impacts on the environment as these amendments lessen prioritization of vehicular traffic over alternative uses and modes of transportation; and

**WHEREAS**, the Planning Commission held a duly noticed public hearing on February 28, 2024, to consider, accept, and receive a 2024 *Comprehensive Downtown Parking Strategy* prepared by Walker Consultants and to hear public testimony on said report; and

**WHEREAS**, on February 28, 2024, the Planning Commission held a duly noticed public hearing to consider ILUDC Chapter 18.36 *Parking and Loading Standards* amendments, including Bicycle Parking and Central Business District (CBD) Special Parking Combining Zone amendments; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City of Fort Bragg Planning Commission, based on the entirety of the record before it, which includes without limitation, CEQA, Public Resources Code §21000, et seq. and the CEQA Guidelines, 14 California Code of Regulations §15000, et seq.; the Fort Bragg Inland General Plan; the

Fort Bragg Inland Land Use and Development Code; the Project application; all reports and public testimony submitted as part of the Planning Commission meeting of February 28, 2024 and Planning Commission deliberations; and any other evidence (within the meaning of Public Resources Code §21080(e) and §21082.2), the Planning Commission of the City of Fort Bragg does hereby make the following findings and determinations:

**SECTION 1: INLAND LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT CODE AMENDMENT FINDINGS**

Pursuant to Fort Bragg Municipal Code Section 18.94.060, the Planning Commission recommends that the City Council make the following findings for adoption of the proposed amendments to the Fort Bragg Inland Land Use and Development Code:

- a. The proposed amendment is consistent with the General Plan and any applicable specific plan; and
  1. The proposed project is consistent with the land use designations of the Land Use Element of the Inland General Plan because the amendment would promote places for people, active uses, and economic vibrancy in the Central Business District, including new infill development and the regeneration of buildings that may be vacant or in disrepair; as overabundant parking would not support these outcomes, and seeing the appropriate supply of parking that supports necessary vehicle access without overburdening downtown with parking lots and vehicle congestion; and the City strives to be mindful of what constitutes adequate off-street parking; and
  2. The proposed amendment is consistent with the following applicable Inland General Plan including its Land Use Policies LU-3.2, LU-3.3, LU-3.4, and LU-3.5; and Circulation Policy C-5.1, Circulation Goal C-6, and Policy C-6.1 and Program C-6.1.1; and Community Design Goal CD-2, Policies CD-2.2 and CD-2.4, and Program CD-2.4.3; and
- b. The proposed amendment would not be detrimental to the public interest, health, safety, convenience, or welfare of the City; and
  1. As recommended by the Planning Commission, the proposed amendment supports safe and effective traffic circulation including adequate off-street parking and efficient ways to satisfy the need for parking in the Central Business District; and
- c. The proposed amendment is internally consistent with other applicable provisions of this Development Code.
  1. The proposed Zoning Code Amendment is consistent with ILUDC standards as amended and recommended in the February 28, 2024 Downtown Comprehensive Parking Strategy.

**SECTION 2: GENERAL FINDINGS:**

- a. The foregoing recitals are true and correct and made a part of this Resolution; and
- b. The documents and other material constituting the record for these proceedings are located in the Community Development Department.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Fort Bragg Planning Commission does hereby recommend that the City Council amend Division 18 to the Fort Bragg Municipal Code, as shown in Attachment A, and to amend Chapter 18.36 *Parking and Loading*, including subsection 18.36.030 General Parking Regulations; 18.36.060 Bicycle Parking; and 18.36.080.C Central Business District (CBD) Special Parking Combining Zone; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its passage and adoption.

**The above and foregoing Resolution was introduced by Commissioner Logan seconded by Chair Deitz, and passed and adopted at a regular meeting of the Planning Commission of the City of Fort Bragg held on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of February 2024, by the following vote:**

**AYES: Jensen, Neils, Stavely, Logan, Deitz**

**NOES:**

**ABSENT:**

**ABSTAIN:**

**RECUSE:**

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**Scott Deitz, Chair**

**ATTEST:**

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**Maria Flynn, Administrative Assistant  
Community Development Department**