

APPENDIX B

Local Laws, Regulations, and Policies Potentially Applicable to the Project

Frequently Used Abbreviations

(see also List of Abbreviations and Acronyms in Table of Contents)

Abbreviation	Definition
BMP	Best Management Practice
CAP	Climate Action Plan
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CHRIS	California Historical Resources Information System
CWPP	Community Wildfire Protection Plan
dBA	A-weighted decibel
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
HMP	Habitat Management Plan
LCP	Local Coastal Program
Ldn	Day-Night Average Sound Level
MS4	Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System
MTCO ₂ e	Metric Tons of Carbon Dioxide Equivalent
NAHC	Native American Heritage Commission
NCCP	Natural Community Conservation Planning
NCUAQMD	North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NSR	New Source Review
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board
SMA	Streamside Management Areas

Appendix B identifies local laws, regulations, and policies potentially applicable to the Pacific Gas & Electric Company Rio Dell Feeder Project.

AESTHETICS

City of Rio Dell General Plan Land Use Element (2015)

- **Goal G1.2-2.** To preserve natural and man-made resources which create a unique scenic character for Rio Dell.
- **Goal G1.2-3.** To preserve river, stream, and drainage channels that collect run-off, provide natural habitat, and serve as scenic open space.
- **Goal G1.3.1-8.** To retain the scenic character of U.S. 101 through Rio Dell.

AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES

City of Rio Dell General Plan Open Space and Conservation Element (2013)

- **Goal CO 5.3-1.** Conserve and protect working agricultural lands within and adjacent to the City.

Humboldt County General Plan Land Use Element (2017)

- **Goal AG-G2.** Preservation of Agricultural Lands. Agricultural land preserved to the maximum extent possible for continued agricultural use in parcel sizes that support economically feasible agricultural operations.
- **Standard AG-S7.** Prime Agricultural Land. Prime Agricultural land per California Government Code Section 51201(c) means:
 - A. All land which qualifies for rating as Class I or Class II in the Soil Conservation Service land use capability classifications.
 - B. Land which qualifies for rating 80 through 100 in the Storie Index Rating.
 - C. Land which supports livestock used for the production of food and fiber and which has an annual carrying capacity equivalent to at least one animal unit per acre as defined by the U.S.D.A.
 - D. Land planted with fruit or nut bearing trees, vines, bushes or crops which have a non- bearing period of less than five years and which will normally return during the commercial bearing period on an annual basis from the production of unprocessed agricultural plant production not less than \$200.00 per acre.
 - E. Land which has returned from the production of unprocessed agricultural plant products on an annual gross value of not less than \$200.00 per acre for three of the five previous years.

AIR QUALITY

Air Quality Attainment Plans

The North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District (NCUAQMD) is listed as "attainment" or "unclassified" for all the federal and state ambient air quality standards with the exception of the state 24-hour coarse particulate matter (PM₁₀) standard in Humboldt County only. NCUAQMD developed a draft PM₁₀ Attainment Plan in to present available information about the nature and causes of exceedances of the PM₁₀ standards, and to identify cost-effective control measures, including transportation control, land use guidelines, and open burning, that can be implemented to bring ambient PM₁₀ levels down to levels that will meet the state standards for PM₁₀ (NCUAQMD 1995).

APCD Rules and Regulations

NCUAQMD is the regional agency responsible for the regulation and enforcement of federal, state, and local air pollution control regulations in Del Norte, Humboldt, and Trinity Counties. The following rules and regulations apply to all sources in the jurisdiction of NCUAQMD:

- **Regulation I: General Provisions, Permits & Prohibition; Rule 102: Required Permits.** No person shall cause or permit the construction or modification of any new source of air contaminants, including an indirect source, without first obtaining an Authority to Construct Permit from the Air Pollution Control Officer, which specifies the location and design of such new source and incorporates necessary permit conditions so as to ensure compliance with applicable Rules and Regulations and State and Federal Ambient Air Quality Standards.
- **Regulation I: General Provisions, Permits & Prohibition; Rule 104: Prohibitions.** No person shall discharge from any source whatsoever such quantities of air contaminants or other material which cause injury, detriment, nuisance or annoyance to any considerable number of persons or to the public or which endanger the health, comfort, repose or safety of any such persons or the public or which cause or have an natural tendency to cause injury or damage to business or property.
- **Regulation I: General Provisions, Permits & Prohibition; Rule 110: New Source Review (NSR) and Prevention of Significant Deterioration.** The purpose of this Rule is to establish pre-construction review requirements for new and modified stationary sources of air pollution and to provide mechanisms, including emission offsets, by which authorities to construct for such sources may be granted without interfering with the attainment or maintenance of ambient air quality standards.

NCUAQMD has not formally adopted significance thresholds for CEQA, but rather recommends lead agencies utilize the emission rates for stationary sources as defined and listed in the NCUAQMD Rule 110.

City of Rio Dell General Plan Open Space and Conservation Element (2013)

- **Goal CO 5.7-1.** Maintain and enhance the air quality within and adjacent to the City.
- **Policy CO 5.7-1.** Continue to impose standard conditions of approval to mitigate air impacts associated with grading activities.
- **Policy CO 5.7-2.** Continue to refer discretionary projects to the North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District (NCUAQMD).

Humboldt County General Plan Air Quality Element (2017)

- **Goal AQ-G1. Improved Air Quality.** Air quality that meets state and federal ambient air quality standards.
- **Goal AQ-G2. Particulate Emissions.** Successful attainment of California Ambient Air Quality Standards for particulate matter.
- **Goal AQ-G3. Other Criteria Pollutants.** Maintain attainment of Ambient Air Quality Standards for ozone and other criteria pollutants which may be subject to tightening standards.
 - **Policy AQ-P2. Reduce Localized Concentrated Air Pollution.** Reduce or minimize the creation of "hot spots" or localized places of concentrated automobile emissions.
 - **Policy AQ-P4. Construction and Grading Dust Control.** Dust control practices on construction and grading sites shall achieve compliance with NCUAQMD fugitive dust emission standards.

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

City of Rio Dell General Plan Land Use Element (2015)

- **Policy P1.2.7-2.** Ensure that environmentally sensitive habitat areas (ESHAs) such as the Eel River corridor, streams and drainage channels with riparian habitat, and forested areas that could potentially support sensitive species, are buffered to protect against any significant disruption of their habitat values.

City of Rio Dell General Plan Open Space and Conservation Element (2013)

- **Goal CO 5.2-1.** Provide open space for the preservation of natural resources for the preservation of plant and animal life, such as habitat for fish and wildlife and areas required for ecological and other scientific study (for example: rivers, streams, bays and estuaries, coastal beaches, lakeshores, riverbanks, and watersheds)
 - **Policy CO 5.2-1.** Riparian areas within the City shall be protected when adjacent development projects are proposed

- **Goal CO 5.2-2.** Preserve existing trees and encourage additional trees on hillsides and within the urban developed areas of the City.
 - **Policy CO 5.2-2.** Maintain and expand the tree canopy within and outside the developed areas of the City
 - **Policy CO 5.2-3.** Protect distinctive natural vegetation such as riparian corridors and mixed evergreen forests by maintaining the natural features as a whole. Preservation of individual trees or features rather than the larger habitat does not satisfy this policy
- **Goal CO 5.2-7.** Conserve natural vegetation and wildlife resources
 - **Policy CO 5.2-7.** Conserve and protect the area's natural vegetation by ensuring that:
 - Drainage and runoff from City sources is not impairing the water quality of the Eel River.
 - Retaining existing riparian vegetation within the conservation buffers along all natural watercourses to preserve riparian vegetation and habitat.
 - Restoring degraded riparian habitats where feasible.
 - Prohibiting agricultural activities within the conservation buffers along all natural watercourses.
 - Avoiding the contamination of groundwater supplies.

Humboldt County General Plan Open Space and Conservation Element (2017)

- **Policy 1. Compatible Land Uses.** Areas containing sensitive habitats shall be planned and zoned for uses compatible with the long-term sustainability of the habitat. Discretionary land uses and building activity in proximity to sensitive habitats shall be conditioned or otherwise permitted to prevent significant degradation of sensitive habitat, to the extent feasible consistent with California Department of Fish and Wildlife guidelines or recovery strategies.
- **Policy 2. Critical Habitat.** Discretionary projects which use federal permits or federal funds on private lands that have the potential to impact critical habitat shall be conditioned to avoid significant habitat modification or destruction consistent with federally adopted Habitat Recovery Plans or interim recovery strategies.
- **Policy 4. Development within Stream Channels.** Development within stream channels shall be permitted when there is no lesser environmentally damaging feasible alternative, and where the best feasible mitigation measures have been provided to minimize adverse environmental effects. Development shall be limited to essential, non-disruptive projects as listed in Standard BR-S6 - Development within Stream Channels.

- **Policy 5. Streamside Management Areas.** To protect sensitive fish and wildlife habitats and to minimize erosion, runoff, and interference with surface water flows, the County shall maintain Streamside Management Areas, along streams including intermittent streams that exhibit in-channel wetland characteristics and off-channel riparian vegetation.
- **Policy 6. Development within Streamside Management Areas.** Development within Streamside Management Areas shall only be permitted where mitigation measures (Standards BR-S8 - Required Mitigation Measures, BR-S9 - Erosion Control, and BR-S10 - Development Standards for Wetlands) have been provided to minimize any adverse environmental effects, and shall be limited to uses as described in Standard BR-S7 - Development within Streamside Management Areas.
- **Policy 7. Wetland Identification.** The presence of wetlands in the vicinity of a proposed project shall be determined during the review process for discretionary projects and for ministerial building and grading permit applications, when the proposed building development activity involves new construction or expansion of existing structures or grading activities. Wetland delineation by a qualified professional shall be required when wetland characterization and limits cannot be easily inventoried and identified by site inspection.
- **Policy 8. Wetlands Banking.** The County supports the development of a wetlands banking system that minimizes potential conversion of prime agriculture lands to wetlands.
- **Policy 9. Oak Woodlands.** Oak woodlands shall be conserved through the review and conditioning of discretionary projects to minimize avoidable impacts to functional capacity and aesthetics, consistent with state law.
- **Policy 10. Invasive Plant Species.** The County shall cooperate with public and private efforts to manage and control noxious and exotic invasive plant species. The County shall recommend measures to minimize the introduction of noxious and exotic invasive plant species in landscaping, grading and major vegetation clearing activities.
- **Policy 11. Biological Resource Maps.** Biological resource maps shall be consulted during the ministerial and discretionary permit review process in order to identify habitat concerns and to guide mitigation for discretionary projects that will reduce biological resource impacts to below levels of significance, consistent with CEQA.
- **Policy 12. Agency Review.** The County shall request the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, as well as other appropriate trustee agencies and organizations, to review plans for development within Sensitive Habitat, including Streamside Management Areas. The County shall request NOAA Fisheries or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to review plans for development within critical

habitat if the project includes federal permits or federal funding. Recommended mitigation measures to reduce impacts below levels of significance shall be considered during project approval, consistent with CEQA.

- **Policy 13. Landmark Trees.** Establish a program to identify and protect landmark trees, including trees that exhibit notable characteristics in terms of their size, age, rarity, shape or location.
 - **Standard 1. Development Excluded from Sensitive Habitat Policies.** Proposed development occurring within areas containing sensitive habitats shall be subject to the conditions and requirements of this chapter except for these exclusions (see page 10-17).
 - **Standard 2. Agency Consultation.** For discretionary projects with potential to impact critical, or sensitive habitats, the County will seek specific recommendations from the appropriate agencies, as applicable to the specific project location, class of development, or natural resource involved
 - **Standard 3. Critical Habitat Defined.** Critical habitats are habitats necessary for the protection of threatened or endangered species listed under the Federal Endangered Species Act. Designation, mapping and enforcement of critical habitat is the responsibility of federal agencies.
 - **Standard 4. Sensitive Habitat Defined.** Sensitive habitats are defined as a biologically unique, limited, or an especially valuable habitat type for a species whose habitat requirements, if significantly changed, would cause a threatening change to the species population across its range and may include the following:
 - A. Habitat necessary for the protection of rare, threatened and endangered species as listed under the FESA or CESA
 - B. Migratory deer winter range
 - C. Roosevelt elk range
 - D. Sensitive avian species rookery and nest sites (e.g. osprey, great blue heron and egret)
 - E. Streams and streamside areas
 - F. Wetlands
 - G. Protected vascular plant communities as listed by the US Fish & Wildlife Service or the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.
 - H. Other sensitive habitats and communities as may be currently, correctly and accurately listed in the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's California Natural Diversity Data Base, as amended periodically.
 - **Standard 5. Streamside Management Areas Defined.** Streamside Management Areas (SMA) are identified and modified as follows:

- A. Areas specifically mapped as SMA and Wetland (WR) Combining Zones, subject to verification and adjustment pursuant to site-specific biological reporting and review procedures.
- B. For areas along streams not specifically mapped as SMA and Wetland (WR) Combining Zones, the outer boundaries of the SMA shall be defined as:
 - 1. 100 feet, measured as the horizontal distance from the top of bank or edge of riparian drip-line whichever is greater on either side of perennial streams.
 - 2. 50 feet, measured as the horizontal distance from the top of bank or edge of riparian drip-line whichever is greater on either side of intermittent streams.
 - 3. The width of Streamside Management Areas shall not exceed 200 feet measured as a horizontal distance from the top of bank.
- C. The width of Streamside Management Areas shall be expanded to up to 200 feet measured as a horizontal distance from the top of bank as necessary to include slides, or areas with visible evidence of slope instability.
- D. The Streamside Management Area may be reduced or eliminated where the County determines, based on specific factual findings, that the mapping of the SMA is not accurate, there are no in-channel wetland characteristics or off-channel riparian vegetation, the reduction will not significantly affect the biological resources of the SMA on the property. When the prescribed buffer would prohibit development of the site for the principal use for which it is designated, measures shall be applied that result in the least environmentally damaging feasible project.
- E. SMAs do not include watercourses consisting entirely of a man-made drainage ditch, or other man-made drainage device, construction, or system.
- **Standard 7. Development within Streamside Management Areas.** Development within Streamside Management Areas may be approved where consistent with Policy BR-P6, Development within Streamside Management Areas, and shall be limited to the following uses:
 - A. Development permitted within stream channels per BR-S6, Development within Stream Channels.
 - B. Timber management and harvest activities under a timber harvesting plan or non-industrial timber management plan, or

- activities exempt from local regulation as per California Public Resources Code 4516.5(d).
- C. Road, bridge, and trail replacement or construction, when it can be demonstrated that it would not degrade fish and wildlife resources or water quality, and that vegetative clearing is kept to a minimum.
 - D. Removal of vegetation for disease control or public safety purposes.
 - E. Normal, usual and historical agricultural practices and uses which are principally permitted within the SMA shall not be considered development for the purposes of this standard.
 - F. Normal, usual and historical agricultural and surface mining practices and uses which are principally permitted within the SMA shall not be considered development for the purposes of this standard.
- **Standard 8. Required Mitigation Measures.** Mitigation measures for development within Streamside Management Areas shall, at a minimum, include:
 - A. Retaining snags unless felling is required by CAL-OSHA, by CAL FIRE forest and fire protection regulations or for public health and safety reasons. The felling must be approved by the Planning Director. Felled snags shall be left on the ground if consistent with fire protection regulations and the required treatment of slash or fuels.
 - B. Retain live trees with visible evidence of current or historical use as nesting sites by hawks, owls, eagles, osprey, herons, kites or egrets.
 - C. Erosion control measures (as per Standard BR-S9- Erosion Control).
 - D. Maximum feasible retention of overstory canopy in riparian corridors.
 - **Standard 9. Erosion Control.** Erosion control measures for development within Streamside Management Areas shall include the following: A. During construction, land clearing and vegetation removal will be minimized, following the provisions of the Water Resources Element and the standards listed here (see page 10-20).
 - **Standard 10. Development Standards for Wetlands.** Development standards for wetlands shall be consistent with the standards for Streamside Management Areas, as applicable except that the widths of the SMA for wetlands are as follows: seasonal wetlands = 50 ft. perennial wetlands = 150 ft. and the setback begins at the edge of the delineated wetland. Buffers may be reduced based on site specific information and consultation with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. No buffer shall be required for man-made wetlands except wetlands created for mitigation purposes.

- **Standard 11. Wetlands Defined.** The County shall follow the US Army Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation manual in the identification and classification of wetlands which considers wetlands as those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs and similar areas.
- **Standard 12. Discretionary Review within Oak Woodlands.** Discretionary projects which may result in a significant effect on oak woodlands shall evaluate and mitigate any impacts, consistent with the provisions of CEQA, specifically Public Resources Code Section 21083.4.
- **Standard 13. Principally Permitted Accessory Use.** Invasive plant species management and control measures shall be considered a principally permitted accessory use in all zones, except in the Coastal Zone.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

City of Rio Dell General Plan Land Use Element (2015)

- **Policy P1.3.4-1.** Ensure that planning decisions integrate information about cultural resources, and provide for consultation and collaboration with outside entities.
- **Policy P1.3.4-2.** Areas of archeological, paleontological, and architectural significance should be identified, assessed, and protected from destruction.

City of Rio Dell General Plan Open Space and Conservation Element (2013)

- **Goal CO 5.4-3.** Investigate historic, archaeological, and paleontological resources and preserve or conserve resources that help residents and visitors understand the history of Rio Dell.

CULTURAL RESOURCES – TRIBAL

City of Rio Dell General Plan Land Use Element (2015)

- **Policy P1.3.4-1.** Ensure that planning decisions integrate information about cultural resources, and provide for consultation and collaboration with outside entities.

City of Rio Dell General Plan Open Space and Conservation Element (2013)

- **Goal CO 5.4-3.** Investigate historic, archaeological, and paleontological resources and preserve or conserve resources that help residents and visitors understand the history of Rio Dell.

- **Policy CO 5.4-4.** Identify and preserve remaining prehistoric camps, villages, and use sites. Identify areas that may be used by the local natives for resource procurement or religious purposes.

ENERGY

Humboldt County Regional Climate Action Plan (2025)

The *Humboldt County Regional Climate Action Plan* (RCAP) is a long-range planning document that guides the Humboldt Region, including Rio Dell, towards long-term GHG emission reduction in accordance with the State’s goal to reduce GHG emissions by 40% below 1990 levels by 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality by 2045 (Humboldt County 2025). The strategies and measures in the RCAP focus on the sectors of Building Energy, Transportation, Waste, Water and Wastewater, and Carbon Sequestration.

The RCAP also serves as a Qualified GHG Reduction Plan under CEQA Guidelines Section 15183.5, enabling streamlined environmental review. The RCAP includes a CEQA GHG Compliance Checklist that can be utilized for future development to demonstrate less-than-significant project/plan CEQA GHG emissions impacts when 1) CEQA review is required and 2) all the applicable checklist questions are complied with. Projects requiring CEQA analysis that are identified as not consistent with the RCAP through the CEQA GHG Compliance Checklist shall prepare a project-specific analysis of GHG emissions, including quantification of existing and projected GHG emissions compared to Humboldt CEQA GHG Emissions Thresholds, shown in Table 1 below, and incorporate the RCAP measures and actions in the CEQA GHG Compliance Checklist to the greatest extent feasible.

Table 1. Humboldt Locally Applicable Plan/Project CEQA Urban and Rural GHG Emissions Thresholds

	2030 New Development		
	New Residential	New Non-Residential	New Mixed-Use ¹
Urban			
GHG Efficiency Threshold (MT CO ₂ e per demographic metric per year)	2.36 per resident	5.28 per full-time equivalent employee	3.37 per service person ²

Table 1. Humboldt Locally Applicable Plan/Project CEQA Urban and Rural GHG Emissions Thresholds

	2030 New Development		
	New Residential	New Non-Residential	New Mixed-Use ¹
Rural			
GHG Efficiency Threshold (MT CO ₂ e per demographic metric per year)	2.38 per resident	5.30 per full-time equivalent employee	3.30 per service person

Source: Humboldt County 2025.

Notes:

GHG emissions from new mixed-use development would count against the total remaining GHG emissions budget for both new residential and new non-residential development rather than as a function of the number of new service people expected in 2030. This avoids double counting.

The service population is equal to the residential population plus the number of full-time equivalent employees.

GEOLOGY, SOILS, AND PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES

City of Rio Dell General Plan Open Space and Conservation Element (2013)

- **Goal CO 5.4-3.** Investigate historic, archaeological, and paleontological resources and preserve or conserve resources that help residents and visitors understand the history of Rio Dell.
- **Policy CO 5.4-6.** Preserve paleontological resources if identified by discovery or if the area is found to have resources by other investigations or databases.
- **Goal CO 5.5-1.** Minimize risks to life and property due to soils and/or geologic hazards.
- **Policy CO 5.5-1.** Continue to utilize all available data on geologic hazards and related risks from the appropriate agencies.

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

APCD Rules and Regulations

- **Regulation I: General Provisions, Permits & Prohibition; Rule 111: Federal Permitting Requirements for Sources of Greenhouse Gases.** The purpose of this Rule is to: (1) ensure that any stationary source that has the potential to emit GHGs above applicable thresholds complies with the requirements of District Rule 110 (NSR) and Rule 501 (Title V), as applicable; and (2) establish federally enforceable limits on potential to emit GHGs for stationary sources that elect to comply with such limits in lieu of obtaining a Part 70 permit that is otherwise required.

Other

- **Humboldt County Regional Climate Action Plan (2025)** (see Energy)

HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

At the local level, no goals, policies, or regulations are applicable to the Project.

HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

City of Rio Dell General Plan Open Space and Conservation Element (2013)

- **Goal CO 5.6-1.** Minimize risks to life and property due to flooding hazards.
 - **Policy CO 5.6-1.a.** Continue to utilize all available data on flooding hazards and related risks from the appropriate agencies.

LAND USE AND PLANNING

At the local level, no goals, policies, or regulations are applicable to the Project.

MINERAL RESOURCES

At the local level, no goals, policies, or regulations are applicable to the Project.

NOISE

City of Rio Dell General Plan Noise Element (2001)

- Rio Dell shall maintain acceptable noise levels for its residents and business community.
- Rio Dell shall seek to minimize intrusive noise where feasible.

City of Rio Dell General Plan Land Use Element (2015)

- **Goal G1.2-7.** To preserve current low ambient noise levels in Rio Dell.

City of Rio Dell Municipal Code

The City of Rio Dell regulates noise primarily through its municipal code, which includes provisions for public health, safety, and welfare:

- **Construction Hours:** Construction and heavy equipment operation are permitted between **7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday**, unless otherwise restricted by the Chief Building Official. Work outside these hours is considered a potential noise nuisance and requires prior written authorization.

- **Nuisance Provisions:** The municipal code prohibits activities that create a public nuisance, including excessive, unnecessary, or unusually loud noise that disturbs the peace or quiet of any neighborhood or that causes discomfort or annoyance to reasonable persons of normal sensitivity.
- **Enforcement:** The Chief Building Official and Code Compliance Administrator have authority to enforce noise regulations, issue citations, and require abatement of violations.

POPULATION AND HOUSING

At the local level, no goals, policies, or regulations are applicable to the Project.

PUBLIC SERVICES

At the local level, no goals, policies, or regulations are applicable to the Project.

RECREATION

At the local level, no goals, policies, or regulations are applicable to the Project.

TRANSPORTATION / TRAFFIC

At the local level, no goals, policies, or regulations are applicable to the Project.

UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

At the local level, no goals, policies, or regulations are applicable to the Project.

WILDFIRE

City of Rio Dell General Plan Safety Element (2016)

- **Goal S6.5-1.** Minimize risks to life and property due to fire hazards.
 - **Policy S6.5-1.** Development designed to reduce the risk of structural and wildland fires supported by fire protection services that minimize the potential for loss of life, property, and natural resources.

City of Rio Dell Municipal Code

The City of Rio Dell adopts the California Fire Code by reference, noted in Title 15, Buildings and Construction (City of Rio Dell 2025).

County of Humboldt Emergency Operations Plan

The Humboldt County Office of Emergency Services is responsible for maintaining the Humboldt County Emergency Operations Plan, which serves to address the planned

response to extraordinary emergency situations associated with natural disasters, technological incidents, and national security emergencies in, or affecting, Humboldt County. OES also maintains specific hazard response plans for earthquake, flooding, tsunamis, coastal storms, and other events. These response plans are used to determine the most appropriate evacuation routes based on the nature and extent of hazard. Pre-disaster evacuation route planning is addressed through a variety of efforts including the FEMA local hazard mitigation plan program, the seismic retrofit program for state bridges and overpasses, tsunami response planning, and the application of the CAL FIRE SRA standards for emergency access.

County of Humboldt Community Wildfire Protection Plan

The Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP), which was approved by the County Board of Supervisors in 2019, is effectively the wildfire hazard mitigation plan for the Humboldt Operational Area. The CWPP identifies SRA Fire Safe Regulations specific to local hazard areas based on past fire history, weather, location, topography, and other characteristics that influence fire behavior. The requirement for specific fire-safe measures for those areas identified as High and Very High Fire Hazard Zones should be elevated to address structural ignitability, road conditions and evacuation considerations, vegetation setbacks, ongoing fuel management, and improved enforcement of these regulations (County of Humboldt 2023).

Part 4 of the CWPP, which contains local information on fire risks and preparedness for each of the 14 planning units within Humboldt County, functions as providing a "mini-CWPP" for each planning unit. Rio Dell is within the Eel planning unit. Similar to the county-wide CWPP, the Eel Planning Unit Action Plan also contains significant findings and recommendations relating to fire protection capability, fire safe education, fire risk and hazard assessment, fire risk reduction and management, community preparedness and response, and fiscal issues relating to fire protection.

