

RESOLUTION NO. 178-18

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ARCATA ESTABLISHING A WESTERN GREENBELT

WHEREAS, the City of Arcata wishes to express Arcata's commitment to agricultural and open space land conservation goals and policies contained in the Arcata General Plan; and

WHEREAS, a greenbelt program designed to protect unincorporated, agricultural and open space lands and maintain agricultural and open space uses within such lands that are contiguous to the incorporated City of Arcata would help meet these commitment goals and policies; and

WHEREAS, Arcata General Plan Policy GM-1d states "*Provide a greenbelt around the City's perimeter to: a) define the urban limit of Arcata; b) provide a physical separation between urban communities; c) protect important agricultural areas from urban uses and maintain agriculture as an economically viable activity;*" and

WHEREAS, Arcata General Plan Policy GM-2g states that the City "*shall periodically review the Sphere of Influence boundary, especially to the west, to determine whether resource lands are being adequately protected;*" and

WHEREAS, the City of Arcata has demonstrated a long-term commitment to agricultural and open space land conservation and hereby reaffirms the following findings:

1. Maintaining lands in agricultural and open space uses within the Greenbelt area is in the overall best interest of the City of Arcata and the State of California;
2. For the most part, the Greenbelt area is not currently served with sewers, water, or other municipal services from the City of Arcata or any other jurisdiction;
3. California is losing farmland and natural open space at a rapid rate and some of Arcata's most potentially developable land is also its most productive agricultural land;
4. Acre for acre, Arcata's agricultural lands are among the most productive in California;
5. Encroaching urban development poses a threat to the continued viability of Arcata's open space lands, especially for parcels located adjacent to urban areas;
6. The protection and conservation of agricultural land, especially in areas that are presently farmed or feature *Prime* or *Statewide Importance* soils, as defined by the Important Farmlands Inventory (IFI), represents a primary objective;
7. The continuation of agricultural operations and open space uses protects Arcata's landscape and environmental resources;
8. Protecting open space, maintaining the integrity of separate, distinct cities and preventing inappropriate urban development from locating between city boundaries represent important "quality of life" goals; and

9. The retention of open space lands protects scenic resources and natural habitats and provides opportunities for passive and active recreational activities, parks and trail systems; and

WHEREAS, the Arcata coastal and non-coastal zoning code is the principal tool in which the General Plan and other policies are implemented and the zoning code establishes building standards (height limits, lot coverage, setbacks, etc.) and allowable land uses; and

WHEREAS, it is hereby declared the policy of the City of Arcata to promote and encourage agriculture as an essential industry and a desirable open space *use*; the Western Greenbelt and other agricultural lands within the City are important because of their high-quality soil, favorable climate and low water costs; and

WHEREAS, the area of the Arcata Western Greenbelt would include 2,331 acres that includes portions of City and State Wildlife Areas, as shown on the attached Exhibit 1, which is incorporated herein by reference.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,

- 1) As used in this Resolution, the following terms shall have the meanings set forth in this section:
 - a. **GREENBELT**—An area consisting of irrigated agricultural land or other Important Farmlands Inventory (IFI) and/or designated open space lands as defined in Sections 56064 and 65560 of the Government Code;
 - b. **OPEN SPACE LANDS**—Land or water area that either remains in its natural state or is used for agriculture, or is otherwise essentially undeveloped as defined in Section 65560 of the Government Code;
- 2) The Arcata General Plan and Zoning Resolution shall control land uses within the Greenbelt:
 - a. The Greenbelt's General Plan designations include Agriculture, Natural Resources and Open Space;
 - b. The Zoning Resolution designations include *Agriculture-Exclusive (A-E), Natural Resources (NR), Public facility (PF)* and *Open Space (O-S)*;
 - c. Only permitted land uses that are consistent with these general plan and zoning code designations, subject to permit, conditions, use standards, performance standards and permit findings, will be permitted within the Greenbelt;
- 3) When making land use decisions, the Arcata Community Development Director, the Arcata Planning Commission and the City Council shall give careful consideration to whether the proposed action would impair the open space values that this Greenbelt is designed to protect;
- 4) When considering development within the Western Greenbelt, the Greenbelt should be maintained by approving projects that protect the Greenbelt with conservation easements, cluster developments or other permeant instruments to protect the integrity of the Greenbelt;
- 5) Within the Arcata Sphere of Influence, the City of Arcata shall comment on County land use and development projects consistent with this Resolution.

This resolution shall be effective upon its adoption.

DATED: April 4, 2018

ATTEST:

Bridget Dary
City Clerk, City of Arcata

APPROVED:

S. S. S.
Mayor, City of Arcata

CLERK'S CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of Resolution No. 178-18 passed and adopted at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Arcata, County of Humboldt, State of California, held on the 4th day of April, 2018, by the following vote:

AYES: PEREIRA, ORNELAS, PITINO, WATSON

NOES: **NONE**

ABSTENT: WATSON

ABSTENTIONS: **NONE**

Bridget Dary
City Clerk, City of Arcata