

ORDINANCE NO. 1491

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ARCATA  
AMENDING THE ARCATA MUNICIPAL CODE  
FLOOD HAZARD MITIGATION STANDARDS

The City Council of the City of Arcata does ordain as follows:

Section 1: Title VIII (Building Regulations), Chapter 4 (Flood Hazard Mitigation Standards), Section 8405 (Standards for Flood Hazard Reduction), is hereby amended by the addition of the following language shown in bold double underscore (unchanged text within the Section is omitted as shown by “\* \* \*”):

**SEC. 8405. Standards for Flood Hazard Reduction**

\* \* \*

**G. Coastal High Hazard Areas.** Unless exempted by General Plan: 2020 policies PS-4b, PS-4g, and any other applicable City regulation or standard, it is the general policy of the City not to allow any development in the area identified as Coastal Flooding (V Zones) on the FIRM Map. **When the Flood Plain Administrator approves an exemption for development within coastal high hazard areas, Zones V, V1-30, and VE, as established under Section 8402. A. the following standards shall apply:**

- 1. All new residential and non-residential construction, including substantial improvement/damage, shall be elevated on adequately anchored pilings or columns and securely anchored to such pilings or columns so that the bottom of the lowest horizontal structural member of the lowest floor (excluding the pilings or columns) is elevated a minimum of 1.0 feet above the base flood level. The pile or column foundation and structure attached thereto is anchored to resist flotation, collapse, and lateral movement due to the effects of wind and water loads acting simultaneously on all building components. Water loading values used shall be those associated with the base flood. Wind loading values used shall be those required by applicable state or local building standards.**
- 2. All new construction and other development shall be located on the landward side of the reach of mean high tide.**
- 3. All new construction and substantial improvement shall have the space below the lowest floor free of obstructions or constructed with breakaway walls as defined in this Chapter. Such enclosed space shall not be used for human habitation and will be usable solely for parking of vehicles, building access or storage.**
- 4. Fill shall not be used for structural support of buildings.**

- 5. Man-made alteration of sand dunes which would increase potential flood damage is prohibited.**
- 6. The Floodplain Administrator shall obtain and maintain the following records:**
- a) Certification by a registered engineer or architect that a proposed structure complies with Section 8405.G. 1 above; and**
- b) The elevation (in relation to mean sea level) of the bottom of the lowest horizontal structural member of the lowest floor (excluding pilings or columns) of all new and substantially improved structures, and whether such structures contain a basement.**

Section 2: Severability. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this chapter is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional, the decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of the Chapter. The City Council hereby declares that it would have passed this Chapter, and each section, subsection, sentence, clause and phrase thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses or phrases be declared invalid under law.

Section 3: This ordinance is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines, because it implements existing policy and practices and can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that implementation of existing policies or practices may have a significant effect on the environment.

Section 4: This ordinance will take effect thirty (30) days after the date of its adoption.

**DATE:** June 21, 2017

**ATTEST:**

**APPROVED:**

/s/ Bridget Dory  
City Clerk, City of Arcata

/s/ Susan Ornelas  
Mayor, City of Arcata

**CLERK'S CERTIFICATE**

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of Ordinance No. 1491, passed and adopted at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Arcata, Humboldt County, California on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of June, 2017, by the following vote:

AYES: **ORNELAS, PEREIRA, PITINO, WATSON, WINKLER**  
 NOES: **NONE**  
 ABSENT: **NONE**  
 ABSTENTIONS: **NONE**

/s/ Bridget Dory  
City Clerk, City of Arcata