

# ORDINANCE NO. ()

## AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SONOMA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, AMENDING SONOMA COUNTY CODE CHAPTER 2 TO CLARIFY ZONING ADMINISTRATOR AUTHORITY AND ESTABLISH REFERRAL CRITERIA FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES

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The Board of Supervisors of the County of Sonoma, State of California, ordains as follows:

**Section I. Amendments to Chapter 2.** Sonoma County Code Section 2-79 (Zoning Administrator—Appointment, designation, and authority) is hereby amended as set forth in Exhibit A, attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

The amendments assign the authority of the Zoning Administrator to review discretionary telecommunications permits. These amendments are intended to align telecommunications permit review with the County’s broader use permit framework while maintaining flexibility for Planning Commission review of projects with greater potential impacts.

### **Section II. Findings.**

On April 16, 2026, the Planning Commission held a duly noticed public hearing on the proposed ordinance amendments and related implementation matters. At the conclusion of that hearing, the Planning Commission recommended that Chapter 2 of the County Code remain unchanged and that the Planning Commission continue to review use permits for telecommunications facilities consistent with current practice, with staff to report to the Planning Agency on implementation in one year after the effective date of this Ordinance.

On May 19, 2026, the Board of Supervisors held a duly noticed public hearing on the proposed ordinance. The Board considered the staff report, the Planning Commission’s recommendation and resolution, public testimony, and all other evidence in the record.

The Board of Supervisors finds as follows:

A. The proposed amendments are consistent with the Sonoma County General Plan, including policies related to public facilities and services, scenic resource protection, and land use compatibility. The amendments support General Plan policies that require evaluation of telecommunications facilities for visual and environmental impacts while recognizing the essential role of wireless infrastructure in supporting public safety, emergency response, and community connectivity.

B. The Board of Supervisors finds that assigning review authority for discretionary telecommunications use permits to the Zoning Administrator is consistent with the County’s broader use permit framework and will support efficient, predictable, and timely processing of telecommunications applications, while retaining appropriate opportunities for public input and appeal. The Board further finds that

telecommunications facilities are subject to federally mandated processing timelines and limited local discretion, and that centralized administrative review is appropriate to support consistent implementation of the County’s updated telecommunications ordinance. The Board additionally finds that the Zoning Administrator retains the authority to refer projects to the Planning Commission on an as-needed basis where additional review is warranted.

**Section III. Environmental Determination.** Permit Sonoma has determined that this Ordinance is not a “project” as defined under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21065 and CEQA Guidelines Sections 15060(c)(2) and 15060(c)(3), because it involves only administrative changes related to permit review authority and will not result in a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment. The Ordinance does not authorize any development, change allowable land uses, or alter applicable development standards. All future telecommunications facilities will remain subject to separate project-level review and environmental review, as applicable, prior to approval.

Alternatively, if adoption of this Ordinance is determined to constitute a project under CEQA, it is exempt pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) because it can be seen with certainty that the Ordinance will not have a significant effect on the environment.

**Section IV. Severability.** If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Ordinance is for any reason held to be unconstitutional or invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portion of this Ordinance. The Board of Supervisors hereby declares that it would have passed this Ordinance and every section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase thereof irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses or phrases be declared unconstitutional or invalid.

**Section V. Effective Date.** This Ordinance shall be and the same is hereby declared to be in full force and effect from and after thirty (30) days after the date of its passage and shall be published once before the expiration of fifteen (15) days after said passage, with the names of the Supervisors voting for or against the same, in *The Press Democrat*, a newspaper of general circulation published in the County of Sonoma, State of California.

In regular session of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Sonoma, introduced on the 19 day of May, 2026, and finally passed and adopted this X day of X, 2026, on regular roll call of the members of said Board by the following vote:

**SUPERVISORS:**

Rabbitt:            Coursey:            Gore:            Hopkins:            Hermosillo:

Ayes:                    Noes:                    Absent:                    Abstain:

**WHEREUPON**, the Chair declared the above and foregoing Ordinance duly adopted and

**SO ORDERED.**

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Chair, Board of Supervisors  
County of Sonoma

ATTEST:

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David Guhin,  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors