



City of Grass Valley City Council Agenda Action Sheet

Title: Introduction of an ordinance amending subsection (F) of section 17.38.080 and adding section 17.30.100 of Chapter 17.30 of Title 17 of the Grass Valley Municipal Code to establish standards for art installations in the City

CEQA: Exempt under CEQA Guideline §15301, Categorical Exemption Class 1 (“Existing Facilities”) and under CEQA Guideline §15061(b)(3) (General Rule)

Recommendation: Approve Resolution 2025-45 adopting a Notice of Exemption for the Project, and Introduce the attached Ordinance 837, waive full reading, and read by Title Only

Prepared by: Amy Wolfson, City Planner

Council Meeting Date: September 9, 2025

Date Prepared: September 3, 2025

Agenda: Public Hearing

Background Information: City Municipal Code Section 17.38.080(F) currently regulates mural installations as a category of signage. City staff is periodically asked to provide regulations for other types of artwork, such as sculpture, for which regulations do not exist. Staff has therefore drafted an expansion of the existing mural ordinance to encompass other forms of visual art.

The draft ordinance provides a process for applicants to propose visual art installments both on private and on public property. Visual art proposed on private property will be required to be approved by the planning commission, with a recommendation from the historic commission if proposed within the historic district. Visual art proposed on public property will be required to be approved by the city council with a recommendation from the planning commission, as well as from the historic commission if proposed within the historic district. The finding required to approve visual art within the city is the same as that which currently exists for mural installments, “that the colors, placement, and size of the artwork are visually compatible with the surrounding character of the area, and that the artwork will serve to enhance the aesthetics of the city.”

The Planning Commission reviewed the draft ordinance at their regular meeting held on August 19, 2025, and voted to recommend adoption with added clarification that the ordinance applies only to nonresidential zoning designations.

Council Goals/Objectives: This ordinance supports the 2022 Strategic Plan Update, Goal #1: The City of Grass Valley is dedicated to promoting programs and projects that improve livability and enhance the character and charm of Grass Valley.

Fiscal Impact: Drafting of the ordinance required staff time.

Funds Available: None

Account #: TBD

Reviewed by: City Manager

Attachments:

1. Resolution 2025-45 to approve a Notice of Exemption
2. Ordinance 837 for the regulation of the installation of public art throughout the City
3. Sample Visual Art Application Form