



Prepared by: Amy Wolfson, City Planner

Subject: Draft Ordinance to establish standards for public art installations within City limits

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the Planning Commission recommend that the City Council adopt the Ordinance regulating public art installation within City limits, which includes the following actions:
 - a. A recommendation that City Council find the Ordinance is exempt under CEQA Guideline 15301, Categorical Exemption Class 1 (“Existing Facilities”) and under CEQA Guideline 15061(b)(3) (General Rule)
 - b. A recommendation to adopt the ordinance of the City Council of the City of Grass Valley 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.

BACKGROUND:

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.

PROPOSED ORDINANCE:

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.”

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION:

This Ordinance is exempt under CEQA Guideline 15301, Categorical Exemption Class 1 (“Existing Facilities”), because it regulates the ability of citizens to place visual art pieces on private and public property and does not authorize an expansion of use. This Ordinance is also exempt under CEQA Guideline 15061(b)(3) because it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the Ordinance may have a significant effect on the environment as it is intended to regulate existing land uses rather than to promote new land uses.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Draft ordinance for the regulation of visual art installation throughout the City
2. Draft Visual Art Application