



RESOLUTION NO. 1673-2026

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RIO DELL REQUESTING THAT THE GOVERNOR OF CALIFORNIA AND THE GOVERNOR’S OFFICE OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NOMINATE CENSUS TRACT 06023011100 FOR DESIGNATION AS A QUALIFIED OPPORTUNITY ZONE UNDER THE OPPORTUNITY ZONES 2.0 PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the City of Rio Dell (“City”) is a general law city located in the Eel River Valley of Humboldt County, California, encompassing U.S. Census Tract 06023011100; and

WHEREAS, the federal Opportunity Zone program, established by the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017, was made a permanent part of the Internal Revenue Code by the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (Public Law 119-21), signed into law on July 4, 2025, which provides for a new decennial round of Opportunity Zone designations referred to as “Opportunity Zones 2.0”; and

WHEREAS, under the Opportunity Zones 2.0 framework, the Governor’s nomination window opens July 1, 2026, designations are certified by the U.S. Department of the Treasury effective January 1, 2027, and remain in effect for ten years, with the Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development (“GO-Biz”) serving as the State’s lead agency; and

WHEREAS, Census Tract 06023011100 was not included in the original (2018) Opportunity Zone designations, and the Eel River Valley was thereby excluded from the economic-development benefits of the program; and

WHEREAS, the Internal Revenue Service, in Revenue Procedure 2026-14, has identified the population census tracts eligible for nomination as 2027 Qualified Opportunity Zones based on the 2020–2024 American Community Survey data; and

WHEREAS, Census Tract 06023011100 qualifies as a low-income community under the tightened Opportunity Zones 2.0 eligibility criteria, with a median income substantially below seventy percent (70%) of the statewide median, reflecting significant and sustained economic distress; and

WHEREAS, on December 20, 2022, a magnitude 6.4 earthquake near Ferndale caused extensive damage within the City of Rio Dell, including to its water, sewer, natural gas, and electrical lifeline systems, recorded the highest peak ground acceleration of that event within the City, and prompted a Governor’s proclamation of a state of emergency, the economic effects of which continue to be felt by the community; and

WHEREAS, the City has made and continues to make substantial public investments in its infrastructure, including drinking-water system capital improvements, sewer-line replacement, and accessibility and

recreation improvements along the Eel River, thereby creating the conditions necessary to attract and support private investment; and

WHEREAS, Census Tract 06023011100 is anticipated to qualify as an area comprised entirely of a rural area under the definition codified at Internal Revenue Code section 1400Z-2(b)(2)(C)(ii), making investments within the tract eligible for the enhanced incentives available through Qualified Rural Opportunity Funds; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that designation of Census Tract 06023011100 as a Qualified Opportunity Zone would advance the public interest by encouraging long-term private investment, job creation, housing, and economic recovery within the City.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Rio Dell as follows:

Section 1. The City Council hereby finds that the foregoing recitals are true and correct and are incorporated herein by this reference.

Section 2. The City Council formally requests that the Governor of the State of California and the Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development nominate Census Tract 06023011100 for designation as a Qualified Opportunity Zone under the Opportunity Zones 2.0 program for the designation round taking effect January 1, 2027.

Section 3. The City Council directs the City Manager and staff to prepare and submit to GO-Biz all materials supporting the nomination of Census Tract 06023011100, including community-need and investment-readiness documentation, and to coordinate the submission of letters of support from regional, county, state, and federal partners.

Section 4. The City Council authorizes the City Manager to take such further actions as are necessary to effectuate the intent of this Resolution, including communicating this request and the City’s supporting materials to GO-Biz, Humboldt County, and the City’s state and federal legislative representatives.

Section 5. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City of Rio Dell on this 16th day of June 2026

Ayes:
Noes:
Abstain:
Absent:

Debra Garnes, Mayor

ATTEST:

Jessica Hill, City Clerk