

CITY OF RIVERBANK

ORDINANCE 2026-001

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RIVERBANK
AMENDING TITLE XV: LAND USAGE; CHAPTER 150: BUILDING REGULATIONS;
SECTIONS 150.01 THROUGH 150.16, AND ADOPTING BY REFERENCE THE 2025
EDITION OF THE CALIFORNIA BUILDING STANDARDS CODE (CALIFORNIA
CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 24, PARTS 1, 2, 2.5, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11 AND 12,
INCLUDING IDENTIFIED APPENDICES), AND AMENDING TITLE XV: LAND
USAGE; CHAPTER 157: WATER EFFICIENT LANDSCAPE AND IRRIGATION;
SECTION 157.01: PURPOSE AND INTENT**

WHEREAS, California Building Standards Code is published in Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations and is adopted and updated by the California Building Standards Commission; and

WHEREAS, Title 24 is republished on a triennial basis to reflect advances in construction technology, materials, safety standards, energy efficiency, and sustainability; and

WHEREAS, the State of California mandates that local jurisdictions adopt and enforce the most recently adopted California Building Standards Code; and

WHEREAS, the 2025 Edition of the California Building Standards Code has been adopted by the California Building Standards Commission and becomes effective on the date established by the State of California; and

WHEREAS, the City of Riverbank finds that adoption of the 2025 California Building Standards Code is necessary to protect the public health, safety, and general welfare of its resident; and

WHEREAS, the City desires to amend its Municipal Code to adopt the 2025 California Building Standards Code by reference and to ensure its administrative provisions are implemented consistent with State law.

NOW, THEREFORE, The City Council of the City of Riverbank does hereby ordain as follows:

SECTION 1. Title XV: Land Usage, Chapter 150: Building Regulations, Sections 150.01 through 150.16 of the Riverbank Municipal Code are hereby amended to read as follows:

CHAPTER 150: BUILDING REGULATIONS

Section

General Provisions

150.01 Purpose and authority

150.02 Mandatory duty of care

150.03 Severability

150.04 Savings clause

Adoption of Standard Codes

150.05 Administrative Code

150.06 Building Code

150.07 Residential Code

150.08 Green Building Standards Code

150.09 Plumbing Code

150.10 Electrical Code

150.11 Fire Code

150.12 Mechanical Code

150.13 Energy Code

150.14 Existing Building Code

150.15 Historical Building Code

150.16 Solar/photovoltaic power systems

GENERAL PROVISIONS

§ 150.01 PURPOSE AND AUTHORITY.

The purpose of this chapter is to adopt by reference the 2025 Edition of the California Building Standards Code, Title 24 - Part 1; Part 2, Volume I & II; Part 2.5; Part 3; Part 4; Part 5; Part 6; Part 8; Part 9; Part 10; Part 11; and Part 12 of the California Code of Regulations subject to the definitions, clarifications, and the amendments set forth in this chapter. The purpose of this chapter is also to provide minimum requirements and standards for the protection of public safety, health, property, and welfare of the City of Riverbank. This chapter is adopted under the authority of Government Code subsection 50022.2 and Health and Safety Code Section 18941.5.

§ 150.02 MANDATORY DUTY OF CARE.

This chapter is not intended to and shall not be construed or given effect in a manner that imposes upon the city or any officer or employee thereof a mandatory duty of care towards persons and property within or without the city, so as to provide a basis of civil liability for damages, except as otherwise imposed by law.

§ 150.03 SEVERABILITY.

If any provision of §§ 150.01 through 150.16 and 157.01 or the application thereof to any person or circumstances is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this chapter are severable. This City Council hereby declares that it would have adopted this chapter irrespective of the invalidity of any particular portion thereof and intends that the invalid portions should be severed and the balance of the ordinance be enforced.

§ 150.04 SAVINGS CLAUSE.

The provisions of §§ 150.01 through 150.16 and 157.01 shall not affect or impair an act done or right vested or approved or any proceeding, suit or prosecution had or commenced in any cause before such repeal shall take effect; but every such act done, or right vested or accrued, or proceeding, suit or prosecution shall remain in full force and affect to all intents and purposes as if such ordinance or part thereof so repealed had remained in force. No offense committed and no liability, penalty or forfeiture, either civilly or criminally incurred prior to the time when any such ordinance or part thereof shall be repealed or altered by this Code shall be discharged or affected by such repeal or alteration; but prosecutions and suits for such offenses, liabilities, penalties or forfeitures shall be instituted and proceeded with in all respects as if such prior ordinance or part thereof had not been repealed or altered.

ADOPTION OF STANDARD CODES

§ 150.05 ADMINISTRATIVE CODE.

In order to regulate the erection, construction, enlargement, alteration, repair, removal, demolition, conversion, occupancy, equipment, wiring, plumbing, use, height, area, and maintenance of all buildings and structures within the City of Riverbank, the 2025 Edition of the California Administrative Code, published by the International Code Council (ICC), as adopted by the Building Standards Commission of the State of California and codified in the California Building Standards Code at Title 24, Part 1, of the California Code of Regulations, except as specifically repealed or amended by ordinance of the City of Riverbank, is hereby adopted and made a part of this chapter as though set forth in full herein. A true and correct copy of the 2025 California Administrative Code as adopted by this section shall be on file in the office of the City Building Official for examination and use by the public.

§ 150.06 BUILDING CODE.

In order to regulate the erection, construction, enlargement, alteration, repair, moving, removal, demolition, conversion, occupancy, equipment, wiring, plumbing, use, height, area, and maintenance of all buildings and structures within the City of Riverbank, the 2025 Edition of the California Building Code, Title 24, Part 2, Volumes 1 and 2, published by the International Code Council (ICC), administrative sections, Chapter 29, Appendices A, C, and I; and amendments, as adopted by the Building Standards Commission of the State of California and codified at Title 24, Part 2 in the California Code of Regulations, except as specifically repealed or amended by ordinance of the City of Riverbank, is hereby adopted and made part of this chapter as though set forth in full herein. A true and correct copy of the 2025 California Building Code as adopted by this section shall be on file in the office of the City Building Official for inspection by the public.

§ 150.07 RESIDENTIAL CODE.

The purpose of this Code is to establish minimum requirements to safeguard the public health, safety, and general welfare through structural strength, means of egress facilities, stability, access to persons with disabilities, sanitation, adequate lighting, ventilation, energy conservation, and safety to life and property from fire and other hazards attributed to the built environment, and to provide safety to firefighters and emergency responders during emergency operations. The provisions of this Code shall apply to the construction, alteration, enlargement, replacement, repair, equipment, use, occupancy, location, maintenance, removal, and demolition of every detached one and two single family dwellings, townhouse not more than three stories above grade plane in height with a separate means of egress and structures accessory thereto within the City of Riverbank. Therefore, the 2025 California Residential Code, Title 24, Part 2.5, published by the International Code Council (ICC), in the California Code of Regulations, except as specifically repealed or amended by ordinance of the City of Riverbank, is hereby adopted and made part of this chapter as though set forth in full herein. A true and correct copy of the 2025 California Residential Code as adopted by this section shall be on file in the office of the City Building Official for inspection by the public.

§ 150.08 GREEN BUILDING STANDARDS CODE.

(A) In order to improve public health, safety, and general welfare by enhancing the design and construction of buildings through the use of building concepts having a reduced negative impact or positive environmental impact, and encouraging sustainable construction practices within the City of Riverbank, the 2025 Edition of the California Green Building Standards Code, Title 24, Part 11 (also known as the CALGreen Code), published by the International Code Council (ICC), in the California Code of Regulations, except as specifically repealed or amended by ordinance of the City of Riverbank, is hereby adopted and made part of this chapter as though set forth in full herein. The provisions of this code shall apply to the planning, design, use, and occupancy of every newly constructed building or structure, unless otherwise indicated in this code, throughout the City of Riverbank. A true and correct copy of the 2025 California Green Building Standards Code as adopted by this section shall be on file in the office of the City Building Official for inspection and use by the public.

(B) This section shall be known as the Green Building Regulations of the City of Riverbank and regulates the construction of new buildings within this jurisdiction, except work located primarily in a public way, public utility towers and poles, mechanical equipment not specifically regulated in the California Green Building Code, and hydraulic flood control structures. The Green Building Regulations shall also apply to city owned buildings.

(C) Where in any specific case, different sections of the Green Building Regulations specify different materials, methods of construction, or other requirements, the most restrictive shall govern. Where there is a conflict between a general requirement and a specific requirement, the specific requirement shall apply.

§ 150.09 PLUMBING CODE.

In order to provide minimum requirements and standards for the protection of the public health, safety, and general welfare and to regulate the erection, installation, alteration, addition, repair, relocation, replacement, maintenance, and use of any plumbing system within the City of Riverbank, the 2025 Edition of the California Plumbing Code, Title 24, Part 5 and all appendix chapters, published by the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO), as adopted by the Building Standards Commission of the State of California and codified in the California Building standards Code at Title 24, Part 5 of the California Code of Regulations, except as specifically repealed or amended by ordinance of the City of Riverbank, is hereby adopted and made a part of this chapter as though set forth in full herein. A true and correct copy of the 2025 California Plumbing Code as adopted by this section shall be on file in the office of the City Building Official for inspection and use by the public.

§ 150.10 ELECTRICAL CODE.

In order to provide minimum standards for the proper regulation of the installation of electrical systems within the City of Riverbank, the 2025 Edition of the California Electrical Code, Title 24, Part 3, and all appendix chapters, published by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), as adopted by the Building Standards Commission of the State of California and codified in the California Building Standards Code at Title 24, Part 3, of the California Code of Regulations, except as specifically repealed or amended by ordinance of the City of Riverbank, is hereby adopted and made a part of the chapter as though set forth in full herein. A true and correct copy of the 2025 California Electrical Code shall be in the office of the City Building Official for inspection and use by the public.

§ 150.11 FIRE CODE.

In order to provide minimum standards to safeguard life, limb, health, property, and public welfare from fire and explosive hazards arising from the storage, handling, and use of hazardous substances, materials and devices, and from conditions hazardous to life or property in the occupancy of buildings and premises in the City of Riverbank, the 2025 California Fire Code, Title 24, Part 9, including Appendix Chapter 4, Appendices A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, and J, published by the International Code Council (ICC), in the California Code of Regulations, as adopted by the Stanislaus Consolidated Fire Protection District, except as specifically repealed or amended by ordinance of the City of Riverbank, is

hereby adopted and made part of this chapter as though set forth in full herein. A true and correct copy of the 2025 California Fire Code as adopted by this section shall be on file in office of the Building Official for inspection by the public.

§ 150.12 MECHANICAL CODE.

(A) In order to provide minimum standards to safeguard life, limb, health, property, and public welfare by regulating and controlling the design, construction, installation, quality of materials, location, operation, maintenance, and use of heating, ventilating, cooling, refrigeration systems, and other heat-producing appliances and systems within the City of Riverbank, the 2025 Edition of the California Mechanical Code, Title 24, Part 4, and all appendix chapters, published by the International Association of Mechanical and Plumbing Officials (IAPMO), as adopted by the Building Standards Commission of the State of California and codified in the California Building Standards Code at Title 24, Part 4 of the California Code of Regulations, except as specifically repealed or amended by ordinance of the City of Riverbank, is hereby adopted and made a part of this chapter as though set forth in full herein. A true and correct copy of the 2025 California Mechanical Code as adopted by this section shall be on file in the office of the City Building Official for inspection and use by the public.

(B) Heating, cooling, and swimming pool equipment shall not be located within the required five-foot side or rear yard setback as defined by the City of Riverbank Zoning Ordinance for residential zonings.

§ 150.13 ENERGY CODE.

In order to provide minimum standards to safeguard life, limb, health, property, and public welfare by regulating and controlling the design, construction, installation, quality of materials, location, operation, maintenance and use of manufactured devices that have been certified by their manufacturer to meet or exceed minimum specifications or efficiencies by the California Energy Commission within the City of Riverbank, the 2025 Edition of the California Energy Code, Title 24, Part 6, and all appendix chapters, published by the International Code Council, as adopted by the Building Standards Commission of the State of California and codified in the California Building Standards Code at Title 24, Part 6 of the California Code of Regulations, except as specifically repealed or amended by ordinance of the City of Riverbank, is hereby adopted and made a part of this chapter as though set forth in full herein. A true and correct copy of the 2025 California Energy Code as adopted by this section shall be on file in the office of the City Building Official for inspection and use by the public.

§ 150.14 EXISTING BUILDING CODE.

In order to provide minimum standards to safeguard life, limb, health, property, and public welfare by regulating and controlling the design, construction, installation, quality of materials, location, operation, maintenance, and use of existing buildings while reducing the risk of death or injury that may result from the effects of earthquakes on existing unreinforced masonry bearing wall buildings within the City of Riverbank, the 2025 California Existing Building Code, Title 24, Part 10, published by the International Code Council (ICC), in the California Code of Regulations, except as specifically repealed or

amended by ordinance of the City of Riverbank, is hereby adopted and made part of this chapter as though set forth in full herein. A true and correct copy of the 2025 California Existing Building Code as adopted by this section shall be on file in the office the of City Building Official for inspection by the public.

§ 150.15 HISTORICAL BUILDING CODE.

In order to provide minimum standards to safeguard life, limb, health, property, and public welfare by regulating and controlling the design, construction, installation, quality of materials, location, operation, maintenance and use of historical buildings to provide solutions for the preservation of qualified historical buildings or properties, to promote sustainability, to provide access for persons with disabilities, to provide a cost-effective approach to preservation, and to provide for the reasonable safety of the occupants or users within the City of Riverbank, the 2025 California Historical Building Code, Title 24, Part 8, published by the International Code Council (ICC), in the California Code of Regulations, except as specifically repealed or amended by ordinance of the City of Riverbank, is hereby adopted and made part of this chapter as though set forth in full herein. A true and correct copy of the 2025 California Historical Building Code as adopted by this section shall be on file in the office of the City Building Official for inspection by the public.

SOLAR/PHOTOVOLTAIC POWER SYSTEMS

§ 150.16 SOLAR/PHOTOVOLTAIC POWER SYSTEMS.

(A) *Where installed.* Solar Photovoltaic Power Systems shall comply with the requirements of the 2025 California Residential Code, 2025 California Electrical Code, 2025 California Building Code, 2025 California Fire Code and California State Fire Marshal Solar Photovoltaic Installation Guidelines (the "Solar Photovoltaic Installation Guideline," published April 22, 2008).

(B) The city may impose fees related to Solar/Photovoltaic Power Systems and from time to time amend said fees by resolution.

(C) *Small Residential Rooftop Solar Energy System review process.*

(1) The following words and phrases as used in this section are defined as follows:

ELECTRONIC SUBMITTAL. The utilization of one or more of the following:

1. E-mail;
2. The internet;
3. Facsimile.

SMALL RESIDENTIAL ROOFTOP SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM. Includes all of the following:

1. A solar energy system that is no larger than ten kilowatts alternating current nameplate rating or 30 kilowatts thermal.

2. A solar energy system that conforms to all applicable state fire, structural, electrical, and other building codes as adopted or amended by the city and paragraph (iii) of subdivision (c) of Section 714 of the Civil Code, as such section or subdivision may be amended, renumbered, or redesignated from time to time.

3. A solar energy system that is installed on a single or duplex family dwelling.

4. A solar panel or module array that does not exceed the maximum legal building height as defined by the authority having jurisdiction.

SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM. Has the same meaning set forth in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subdivision (a) of Section 801.5 of the Civil Code, as such section or subdivision may be amended, renumbered, or redesignated from time to time.

(2) Section 65850.5 of the California Government Code provides that in developing an expedited permitting process, the city, county, or city and county shall adopt a checklist of all requirements with which small rooftop solar energy systems shall comply to be eligible for expedited review. The building official is hereby authorized and directed to develop and adopt such checklist.

(3) The checklist shall be published on the city's internet website. The applicant may submit the permit application and associated documentation to the city's building division by personal or electronic submittal together with any required permit processing and inspection fees. In the case of electronic submittal, the electronic signature of the applicant on all forms, applications and other documentation may be used in lieu of a wet signature.

(4) Prior to submitting an application, the applicant shall:

(a) Verify to the city's reasonable satisfaction through the use of standard engineering evaluation techniques that the support structure for the small residential rooftop solar energy system is stable and adequate to transfer all wind, seismic, and dead and live loads associated with the system to the building foundation; and

(b) At the applicant's cost, verify to the city's reasonable satisfaction using standard electrical inspection techniques that the existing electrical system including existing line, load, ground and bonding wiring as well as main panel and subpanel sizes are adequately sized, based on the existing electrical system's current use, to carry all new photovoltaic electrical loads.

(5) For a small residential rooftop solar energy system eligible for expedited review, only one inspection shall be required, which shall be done in a timely manner and may include a consolidated inspection by the Building Inspector and Fire Department designee. If a small residential rooftop solar energy system fails inspection, a subsequent inspection is authorized; however, the subsequent inspection need not conform to the requirements of this subsection.

(6) An application that satisfies the information requirements in the checklist, as determined by the building official, shall be deemed complete. Upon receipt of an incomplete application, the building official shall issue a written correction notice detailing all deficiencies in the application and any additional information required to be eligible for expedited permit issuance.

(7) Upon confirmation by the building official of the application and supporting documentation being complete and meeting the requirements of the checklist, the building official shall administratively approve the application and issue all required permits or authorizations within one to three working days in which the permit application is submitted. Such approval does not authorize an applicant to connect the small residential rooftop energy system to the local utility provider's electricity grid. The applicant is responsible for obtaining such approval or permission from the local utility provider.

SECTION 2. Title XV: Land Usage, Chapter 157: Water Efficient Landscape and Irrigation, Section 157.01 of the Riverbank City Code is amended to read as follows:

§ 157.01 Purpose and Intent.

The purpose and intent of this chapter is to establish landscaping regulations that are intended to:

(A) Enhance the aesthetic appearance of development in all areas of the city by providing development standards relating to quality, quantity and functional aspects of landscaping and landscape screening.

(B) Increase compatibility between residential and abutting commercial and industrial uses.

(C) Reduce the heat and glare generated by development.

(D) Establish a water conservation plan to reduce water consumption in the landscape environment using conservation principles important to the State of California and the City of Riverbank.

(E) Protect public health, safety, and welfare by minimizing the impact of all forms of physical and visual pollution, controlling soil erosion, screening incompatible land uses, preserving the integrity of neighborhoods, and enhancing pedestrian and vehicular traffic and safety.

(F) Comply with the California Department of Water Resources Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance as contained in Title 23, Division 2, Chapter 2.7 of the California Code of Regulations and the California Green Building Standards of 2025 and/or these standards as amended from time to time.

SECTION 3. This Ordinance shall become effective thirty (30) days from and after its final passage and adoption, provided it is published in a newspaper of general circulation at least fifteen (15) days prior to its effective date.

SECTION 4. If any section, subdivision, sentence, clause, phrase or portion of this Ordinance is, for any reason, held invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent

jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed a separate, distinct and independent provision, and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions thereof.

SECTION 5. This Ordinance shall become effective thirty (30) days after it passage by the City Council, and following the affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the City Council. Within 15 days of its adoption, a summary of the ordinance shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the City of Riverbank, State of California, which summary shall include the names of those Council Members voting for and against the ordinance. A certified copy of the full text of such adopted ordinance or amendment shall be on file in the office of the City Clerk.

SECTION 6. The foregoing ordinance was introduced at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Riverbank held on January 13, 2026. Said ordinance was given a second reading at a regular meeting of said Council on January 27, 2026, and Councilmember Cindy Fosi, seconded by Councilmember Stacy Call, moved the adoption of said ordinance and upon roll call was carried by the following 5/0:

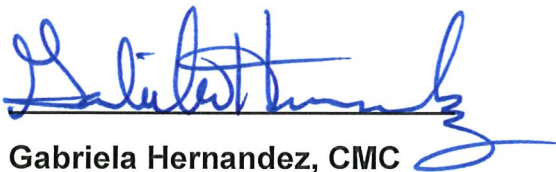
AYES: Councilmember, District 1 Luis Uribe
Councilmember, District 2 Cindy Fosi
Councilmember, District 4 Stacy Call
Vice Mayor, (CM-D3) John Pimentel
Mayor, Rachel Hernandez

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

ATTEST:



Gabriela Hernandez, CMC
City Clerk

APPROVED:



Rachel Hernandez
Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Tom Hallinan
City Attorney



City of Riverbank

Office of the City Clerk / Elections

CERTIFICATION OF ORDINANCE 2026-001

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF STANISLAUS } ss:
CITY OF RIVERBANK }

I, Gabriela Hernandez, duly appointed City Clerk of the City of Riverbank, California, **DO HEREBY CERTIFY** that the foregoing **Ordinance 2026-001** (consisting of 10 pages) was introduced at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Riverbank, held on 01/13/2026 and thereafter was adopted at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Riverbank on 01/27/2026, by the following City Council vote of 5-0, to wit:

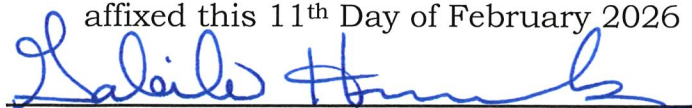
AYES:
COUNCILMEMBER DISTRICT 1 LUIS URIBE
COUNCILMEMBER DISTRICT 2 CINDY FOSI
COUNCILMEMBER DISTRICT 4 STACY CALL
VICE MAYOR (CM-D3) JOHN PIMENTEL
MAYOR RACHEL HERNANDEZ

NAYS: NONE
ABSENT: NONE
ABSTAINED: NONE

I FURTHER CERTIFY that the foregoing **Ordinance 2026-001** was published pursuant to GC § 36933 as follows:

- First Summary published on 12/17/2025 in the Riverbank News by City Clerk Office; and
- Second Summary published on 02/11/2026 the Riverbank News.
- Notices were also posted on the exterior Bulletin Boards of City Hall North and the Community Center.

WITNESS my hand and the Seal of the City of Riverbank,
affixed this 11th Day of February 2026


Gabriela Hernandez, CMC, City Clerk