

Rent Stabilization Ordinance Update and Next Steps

November 3, 2025

Purpose: Present the Amended Rent Stabilization Ordinance

Objective:

- Review key amendments incorporated into the draft ordinance
- Receive input and confirmation from a majority of Council to proceed with a Second Reading for adoption

Background





At the February 24, 2025 Meeting, City Council Directed Staff to:

- Establish a local rent cap program with a 6% annual cap
- Implement a rental registry with limited or no personally identifiable information
- Include just cause eviction protections, including relocation benefits to tenants, informed by a market study
- Provide access to mediation services
- Identify a Rental Hearing Officer to administer disputes
- Commit to Phase II: Rental Inspection Program implementation



At the June 16, 2025 Meeting, City Council Directed Staff to:

- Establish a local rent cap program with a 5% annual cap instead of 6%
- Council directed staff to provide a report on the progress and impact of the Rent Stabilization measures within 12 months of the ordinance's effective date.



At the October 20, 2025 Meeting, City Council Directed Staff to:

- Bring back the Amended Ordinance without the rental registry requirement
- Detail current funds to help support rent stabilization program administration



Program Structure and Coverage

- 5% Annual Rent Cap: Aligns with Council's direction to establish a local rent stabilization standard
- Clarified Exemptions: Clarifies which units are exempt and outlines the process for claiming exemptions



Tenant Protection Measures

- Relocation Assistance: Amounts to be set by City Council resolution, providing flexibility to adjust over time
- Relocation Study: A study will be conducted to inform Pomonaspecific relocation assistance amounts
- Mediation Program: A dispute resolution process will be available to help landlords and tenants resolve issues without formal petitions or legal action



Petition and Hearing Process

- Petition & Hearing Procedures Clarified: Streamlines timelines, documentation requirements, and responsibilities for both tenant and landlord petitions, including hearing officer duties and scheduling
- Expanded Tenant Petitions: Allows tenants to file petitions for a broader range of issues
- Capital Improvement Petitions: Separated out from the general landlord petition to provide clearer guidance for landlords requesting relief to recoup costs for capital improvements



Administrative Improvements

- Submission Flexibility: Required materials, such as notices, may now be submitted via email or mail, enhancing accessibility and reducing administrative burden
- Improved Terminology and Formatting: Language and timelines throughout the ordinance have been refined for clarity, consistency, and ease of interpretation by the public and staff



Financial Impact

- Total estimated \$3.0 million cost over the next three years to fund the Rent Stabilization program
- The funding from the American Rescue Plan (ARP) will expire on December 31, 2026
- Starting in January 2027, there are no identified funding sources to support the rent stabilization program
- If ordinance approved, there will be an additional \$1.8 million impact to the General Fund between FY 2026-2027 and FY 2027-2028

Next Steps

Legislative Milestones

- First Reading held tonight
- If approved, Second Reading in December of 2025
- Ordinance effective January 1, 2026 and shall remain in effect only until December 31, 2026

Implementation Planning Underway

- Relocation Assistance Study to inform City Council resolution
- Coordinate staffing and develop implementation roadmap
- Development of forms and administrative regulations



QUESTIONS?