

**CHAPTER FIVE: PLANNING, ZONING, USE, AND  
DEVELOPMENT OF LAND AND IMPROVEMENTS**

**Subchapter 5.03: Zoning**

**5.03.010 Title.**

This subchapter shall be known as the "Zoning Ordinance" of the Town of Colma.

[*History:* formerly § 5.301; ORD. 234, 3/14/79; ORD. 638, 12/14/05]

**5.03.020 Purpose.**

There is hereby adopted a zoning or districting plan for the Town of Colma. This plan is adopted to promote and protect the public health, safety, peace, morals, comfort and general welfare. It consists of the establishment of various zones, including therein all the territory within the boundaries of said city, within some of which zones it shall be lawful and within some of which zones it shall be unlawful to construct, reconstruct, alter, enlarge, move, or maintain certain buildings or to use certain lands or buildings, and it further consists of appropriate regulations to be enforced in such zones, all as set forth in this ordinance.

[*History:* formerly § 5.302; ORD. 234, 3/14/79; ORD. 638, 12/14/05]

**5.03.030 General Prohibition.**

No person may use, design, or intend to be used, any building or land in the city, except for the purposes specified in, and in compliance with, the provisions of this subchapter.

[*History:* formerly § 5.303; ORD. 234, 3/14/79; ORD. 638, 12/14/05]

**5.03.040 Zones and Boundaries Thereof.**

(a) The following land use zones shall be established in the City:

- G - Memorial Park, Agricultural and Recreational
- R - Residential
- R-S - Neighborhood Residential [Ord. 536, 7/8/98]
- C - Commercial
- P - Public
- E - Executive, Administrative
- T - Transit

(b) The following safety zone shall be established in the City: F.

Such zone shall be in addition to and lay over the land use zones as set forth in subsection (a) above. All real property in the Town of Colma lying within 50 feet of either edge of the Colma Creek, and all other real property determined by the City Engineer to be subject to a one per cent chance of flooding in any given year, shall be in the F zone.

(c) The following transit zone shall be established in the City: T.

Such zone shall be in addition to and lay over the land use zones as set forth in subparagraph (a) above. All real property in the Town of Colma lying within the 60-foot right-of-way owned, or formerly owned, by Southern Pacific Company shall be in the T zone.

(d) The following design review zone shall be established in the City: DR.

Such zone shall be in addition to and lay over the land use zones set forth in subparagraph (a), above. All real property from the junction of Mission Road and El Camino Real on the south to the junction of F Street and El Camino Real on the north, and from Junipero Serra Boulevard on the west to the City limits on the east, plus all property fronting on Mission Road, shall be in the DR zone.

(e) The zones aforesaid and the boundaries of such zones are shown upon a map filed with the City Clerk and designated "General Plan Land Use, Town of Colma, April 2008 Zoning Map". Said map and all notations, references and other information shown thereon shall be and hereby is incorporated by reference in this ordinance as if fully set forth herein.

[History: formerly § 5.310, ORD. 234, 3/14/79; ORD. 290, 8/10/83; ORD. 321, 7/10/85; ORD. 374, 9/14/88; ORD. 409, 3/14/90; ORD. 536, 7/8/1998; ORD. 557, 8/18/1999; ORD. 573, 4/12/00, ORD. 588, 8/15/2001; ORD 609, 12/10/03; ORD. 610, 1/14/04; ORD. 627, 4/13/05; ORD. 638, 12/14/05; ORD. 668, 5/14/08]

### **5.03.050 Zone Boundaries.**

Where uncertainty exists as to the boundaries of any zone shown on said "Zone Map", the following rules shall apply:

(a) Where such boundary is indicated as approximately following a street or alley line, such street or alley line shall be deemed to be such boundary.

(b) Where such boundary is indicated as approximately following a lot line, such lot shall be deemed to be such boundary.

(c) Where uncertainty exists, the City Council shall, by written declaration, determine the location of the zone boundary.

[History: formerly § 5.311; ORD. 234, 3/14/79; ORD. 638, 12/14/05]

### **5.03.060 "G" Zone.**

(a) The following uses are generally permitted on land located within the "G" Zone:

(1) A cemetery or memorial park;

- (ii) Professional Business and Medical Service Offices: one (1) parking space for each three hundred (300) square feet of gross floor area;
  - (iii) Restaurants: One (1) parking space for each four (4) seats for seating other than private banquet facilities; and with respect to private banquet facilities such additional parking as may be appropriate considering the size of the facility, the reasonably anticipated utilization of the banquet facility, and the availability of adjacent parking; provided, however, that the amount of parking required for banquet facilities shall be no greater than one (1) parking space for each four (4) seats.
  - (iv) All other uses: minimum of one (1) space for each five (5) regular employees but, in any case, not less than one (1) space for each two thousand (2,000) square feet of gross floor area, or fraction thereof.
- (5) Height: The maximum height of any building shall be thirty-six (36) feet.
  - (6) Design: The design of any building shall be subject to approval by the City Council who shall consider the height, design and use of such building in relation to the height, design and use of buildings in the surrounding area.
  - (7) Landscaping: Within the required setback area from El Camino Real there shall be maintained only paved walks, paved walks, paved driveways, lawns and landscaping. The landscaping shall be consistent with landscaping in the surrounding area, and shall screen parking areas from passerby on the adjacent street. The City Council may require, as a condition of any Use Permit, that all or a portion of the setback area be maintained as lawns or landscaping.
  - (8) Parking shall be placed behind buildings or well screened by landscaping.
  - (9) Any roll-up doors and loading areas shall be located so as not to face public roads.

[History: formerly § 5.335.1; ORD. 321, 7/10/85; ORD. 372, 7/13/88; ORD. 638, 12/14/05]

#### **5.03.340 Restrictions Applicable to "T" Zone.**

(a) No person may erect, construct, enlarge or improve any public or private transit building or transit structure in the "T" Zone, or permit the same to be done, unless such building or structure is underground and covered with soil so as to make its location indistinguishable from adjacent terrain.

(b) Notwithstanding the foregoing, nothing herein contained shall limit the establishment and maintenance of landscaping, fences, roads, surface parking facilities, or similar improvements in said zone.

(c) Notwithstanding the foregoing, the portion of a parcel containing a "T" zone shall be included in determining land to building ratios, set-backs, minimum lot size, and similar zoning requirements.

(d) Buildings and structures may be developed in the "T" Zone, subject to a Use Permit, provided the building or structure is supported on a foundation system that will not prevent the development of covered, underground public or private transit facilities at that location.

[History: formerly § 5.335.2; ORD. 374, 09/14/88; ORD. 460, 11/10/93; ORD. 638, 12/14/05]

### **5.03.350 Restrictions Applicable to All Zones.**

(a) There shall not be permitted any use which may be determined by the City Council to be obnoxious or offensive because of the presence or emission of odor, fumes, dust, gas, smoke, noise, bright lights, vibrations, pollution, detrimental sewer wastes, or have a detrimental effect on permissible adjacent uses, or will be hazardous by reason of danger of fire or explosion.

(b) In each zone there shall be provided at the time of the erection of any main building or at the time any main building is enlarged or increased in capacity, sufficient off-street parking accommodations with adequate provisions for ingress and egress by standard size automobiles. Parking access-ways, parking spaces and fire lanes shall all meet the minimum standards provided in Section 5.01.080 (Definitions) above.

(c) The following uses are prohibited in all districts: amusement parks or centers, circuses, carnivals, outdoor theaters, race tracks, commercial recreation centers, stockyards, the slaughtering of animals, and medical marijuana dispensaries.

(d) Definition of "self-storage mini-warehouse": a structure containing more than five (5) individually locked rooms or compartments, each of which rooms or compartments are available for rent to the general public on a daily, weekly, monthly or other periodic basis for the purpose of storing chattel or personal property, where the property stored in the rooms or compartments is loaded and removed by the renter of the compartment, rather than by the owner of the self-storage mini-warehouse or his agent. "Self-storage mini-warehouse" does not include storage space made available on a rental basis to renters of apartments or owners of condominiums on the premises which contains the condominium or apartment building.

(e) No person shall install, construct or maintain a fence or hedge on any property in the Town of Colma except in compliance with the following:

(1) General fence and hedge limitations:

(i) If cyclone fencing is used, it must be black vinyl clad with black painted posts and supports.

(ii) Fences shall be maintained in good repair and condition.

(iii) Hedge height limits in this section do not apply to taller landscaping planted immediately adjacent to building walls. Free standing trees are encouraged in all yard areas.

(iv) Fences with razor wire are not permitted in the Town of Colma.