



## AGENDA ITEM 6A

**MEETING:** July 15, 2015

**TO:** Humboldt LAFCo Commissioners

**FROM:** Colette Metz, Administrator

**SUBJECT:** **Approval of Conducting Authority Proceedings for the Formation of the Fruitland Ridge Fire Protection District**

The Commission is requested to approve Resolution 15-06 and direct the Humboldt LAFCo Executive Officer to work with County election officials in preparation of an appropriate ballot measure for the Fruitland Ridge FPD formation, including preparation of an impartial analysis for the measure.

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### **A. BACKGROUND**

On May 20, 2015, the Commission conditionally approved the formation of the Fruitland Ridge Fire Protection District (FPD), subject to two-thirds (2/3) voter approval of a special tax and election of a three (3) member Board of Directors. The formation of the Fruitland Ridge FPD formalizes fire protection responsibility that has historically been provided by good-will services. The proposed special tax would support the maintenance of current service levels allowing the Fruitland Volunteer Fire Company (VFC) to improve the level of fire and emergency medical services in the future. The Fruitland VFC would continue to provide fire protection services on behalf of the Fruitland Ridge FPD.

### **B. DISCUSSION**

Subsequent to the Commission approval, the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors approved the Humboldt LAFCo request for a special election for the formation, special tax, and election of governing board members of the Fruitland Ridge FPD. On July 7, 2015, the Board of Supervisors approved the request to consolidate the election with the General Municipal Election to be held on November 3, 2015. This approval was contingent on insufficient protest at the public hearing in conjunction with the protest proceedings held by the LAFCo Executive Officer on July 7, 2015.

The protest hearing was held at the Fruitland Ridge Fire Hall. Notices for the protest hearing were mailed 21-days in advance to registered voters and property owners within the formation area, and published in the Times Standard. At the hearing, the Executive Officer summarized the proposal and opened the public hearing. Public comment was received. At the closing of the hearing, one (1) landowner protest was filed with the Executive Officer. Based on the determination that insufficient written protests were submitted, it is recommended that the Commission direct the LAFCo Executive Officer to work with County election officials in preparation of an appropriate ballot measure for the Fruitland Ridge FPD formation, including preparation of an impartial analysis for the measure.

**C. RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends the Commission approve the attached Resolution for the Fruitland Ridge FPD Election.

***Attachments***

Attachment A: Draft Resolution No. 15-06

**RESOLUTION NO. 15-06****CONFIRMATION OF CONDUCTING AUTHORITY PROCEEDINGS  
FOR THE FORMATION OF THE FRUITLAND RIDGE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**

WHEREAS, on May 20, 2015, Humboldt Local Agency Formation Commission, hereinafter referred to as the "Commission," took action pursuant to California Government Code, Section 56000 et seq. Part 3, Division 3, Title 5 of the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 to approve LAFCo Resolution No. 15-04, thereby conditionally approving the formation of the Fruitland Ridge FPD, with said resolution providing findings, determinations, conditions of approval, and related approvals pertinent to the district formation; and

WHEREAS, Humboldt LAFCo has fulfilled its duties, pursuant to California Government Code (commencing with Section 57000), in serving as conducting authority for protest proceedings following resolution adoption, providing notice and opportunity for property owners and registered voters living in the territory proposed to be served by the Fruitland Ridge FPD to file protests against further formation actions; and

WHEREAS, on July 7, 2015, the LAFCo Executive Officer held a public hearing in conjunction with the protest proceeding; and

WHEREAS, following said public hearing, the LAFCo Executive Officer determined, pursuant to California Government Code Section 57078, that the number of qualified protests concerning formation of the Fruitland Ridge FPD did not constitute a majority protest that would require abandonment of the proposal; and

WHEREAS, on July 7, 2015, the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors approved the LAFCo request for election consolidation and directed the Clerk of the Board to forward the Board Order, LAFCo Cover Letter, and LAFCo Resolution No. 15-04 to the County Elections Department; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to California Government Code Section 57000, the County elections official will prepare for and conduct the necessary election for the formation of the Fruitland Ridge FPD pursuant to the Government Code, relevant election provisions of the County, and the terms and conditions set forth in Humboldt LAFCo's resolution of approval; and

WHEREAS, the election has been called for special tax approval, which, if approved by two-thirds (2/3) of votes cast by voters voting upon the measure within the district boundaries, would be apportioned to property at a rate of \$60 per parcel; and

WHEREAS, the election called shall also be made for the election of a three-member Board of Directors, pursuant to Fire Protection District Law, contingent upon voter approval of the Fruitland Ridge Fire Protection District formation.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** as follows:

1. The Humboldt LAFCo Executive Officer is directed to work with County election officials in preparation of an appropriate ballot measure for the Fruitland Ridge FPD formation, including preparation of an impartial analysis for the measure.

The foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the Local Agency Formation Commission of the County of Humboldt, State of California.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** at a meeting of the Humboldt Local Agency Formation Commission on the 15<sup>th</sup> of July, 2015, by the following vote:

AYES:	Commissioners:
NOES:	Commissioners:
ABSENT:	Commissioners:
ABSTAIN:	Commissioners:

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Virginia Bass, Chair  
Humboldt LAFCo

Attest:

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George Williamson, Executive Officer  
Humboldt LAFCo