



AGENDA ITEM 7B

MEETING: July 15, 2015

TO: Humboldt LAFCo Commissioners

FROM: Colette Metz, Administrator

SUBJECT: **Proposed Sphere of Influence Amendment and Annexation of Out of District Fire Service Response Areas to the Telegraph Ridge Fire Protection District**

The Commission will consider a proposal submitted by resolution of application by the Telegraph Ridge Fire Protection District (FPD) for a sphere of influence (SOI) amendment and corresponding annexation of approximately 8,911 acres (155 parcels) of land located outside the boundaries that is currently served by the District. Staff recommends approval of the proposal with conditions incorporated.

LAFCos are responsible under the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 to regulate the formation and development of local governmental agencies and their municipal services. This includes approving or disapproving proposed changes of organization, such as district formations, consistent with adopted policies and procedures pursuant to California Government Code (G.C.) Section 56375. LAFCos are authorized with broad discretion in amending and conditioning changes of organization as long as they do not directly regulate land use, property development, or subdivision requirements.

A. BACKGROUND

Proceedings for this annexation were initiated by the Telegraph Ridge FPD. The proposal includes annexation of approximately 8,911 acres (155 parcels) located outside the boundaries that is currently served by the District. The proposal includes the following actions to annex the following out of district service areas, as shown in Attachment A:

1. Revise the Telegraph Ridge FPD Sphere of Influence (SOI) to exclude approximately 2,953 acres that is included in the Whitethorn FPD SOI and approximately 6,294 acres that is included within the boundaries of the Briceland Fire Protection District;
2. Revise the Telegraph Ridge FPD SOI to add approximately 3,315 acres for a total of approximately 8,911 acres; and
3. Annex all land within the revised Telegraph Ridge FPD SOI into the District boundaries.

Upon annexation, the Telegraph Ridge FPD's existing special assessment on property, applied at a rate of \$10 for unimproved property and \$30 for improved property within the district, would be extended to all property within the proposed annexation area.

The Telegraph Ridge FPD currently provides "good will service" to the proposed annexation areas and has responded to calls for service in these areas since the time the district was formed. The demand for service in the annexation areas has increased over time as additional development has been approved by Humboldt County. The approval of this annexation would enable the district to establish funding sources within the annexation areas, beyond donations, from which the fire district can rely upon into the future and improve service delivery.

No improvements are proposed as part of this annexation. The Telegraph Ridge FPD would continue to provide service to the annexation areas from its existing fire station on Ettersburg-Honeydew Road and using its current equipment and apparatus. It is hoped that the additional revenue would allow the Telegraph Ridge FPD to improve its capacity to provide service and the level of service provided.

B. DISCUSSION

Reasons for Proposal

According to the application, the reasons for the proposed annexation are as follows:

1. The Telegraph Ridge FPD has provided fire protection services to the proposed annexation areas for as long as the district has been in existence and as long as there has been land use activity demanding fire protection services;
2. The proposed annexation would enable the district to extend its existing funding source to the annexation areas to support existing service and to sustain or potentially improve future service delivery; and
3. The proposed annexation would establish district boundaries that clearly define service responsibilities for the benefit of neighboring fire service providers, land use authorities, the public, and other service providers.

Description of Annexation Areas

Annexation Area 1: This annexation area is approximately 5,525 acres in area and comprised of Sections 25 and 26 [T 4 South R 3 East] and Sections 16 (portion), 17, 19 (portion), 20, 21 (portion), 25, 30 (portion), 29 (portion), 31, 32 (portion) [T 3 South R 2 East]. Approximately 4,155 acres of Annexation Area 1 are within the existing Telegraph Ridge FPD SOI. The area contains the steeply sloped Mattole Canyon Creek and Sholes Creek watersheds of the Mattole River. Homes and development within this annexation area largely concentrated along Dutyville Road. The annexation area is bounded by the Honeydew Volunteer Fire Company (VFC) response area to the north and west, the Salmon Creek VFC response area to the northwest, and the Briceland FPD boundaries

to the south east. Land within this area is zoned Unclassified (51%), TPZ (27%), Forestry Recreation (12%), and Agricultural Exclusive (9%).

Annexation Area 2: Annexation Area 2 is approximately 291 acres in area and comprised of the southern half of Section 27 [T 4 South R 2 East]. Annexation Area 2 is not within the existing Telegraph Ridge FPD SOI. The area contains the steeply sloped Miller Creek watershed of Redwood Creek and the Upper Sprowell Creek watershed of the South Fork Eel River as well as the Eubank Creek watershed of the Mattole River. There are no homes or development within this area except the Briceland-Thorne Road. The annexation area is bounded by the Briceland FPD boundaries to the east and the Whitethorn FPD good will out of district response area to the west. Land within this area is zoned TPZ (100%).

Annexation Area 3: Annexation Area 3 is approximately 1,618 acres in area and comprised of the northern half of Sections 13, 14, and 24 (portion) [T 4 South R 1 East]. The entire Annexation Area 3 is within the existing Telegraph Ridge FPD SOI. The area is within the steeply sloped North Fork Bear Creek and Big Finley Creek watersheds of the Mattole River. The only home in this annexation area is accessed via Etter Ranch Road. The annexation area is bounded by the existing Telegraph Ridge FPD to the east and the Whitethorn FPD good will out of district response area to the south. Land within this area is zoned TPZ (70%), Unclassified (21%), and Agricultural Exclusive (9%).

Annexation Area 4: Annexation Area 4 is approximately 995 acres in area (53% is BLM land) and comprised of Section 4, 9 (portion), and 10 (portion) [T 3 South R 1 East]. Approximately 56% of Annexation Area 4 is within the existing Telegraph Ridge FPD SOI. The area is within the steeply sloped North Fork Bear Creek watershed of the Mattole River. The 2010 Census indicates that there are no housing units within this annexation area, but at least two parcels are developed. The annexation area is bounded by the existing Telegraph Ridge FPD to the east and the King Range National Conservation Area to the west. Land within this area is zoned TPZ (57%), Unclassified (43%), and Agricultural Exclusive (9%).

Annexation Area 5: Annexation Area 5 is approximately 482 acres in area comprised of a portion of Section 32 [T 4 South R 1 East]. None of Annexation Area 7 is within the existing Telegraph Ridge FPD SOI. The area is within the steeply sloped North Fork Bear Creek and Honeydew Creeks watersheds of the Mattole River. The annexation area is bounded by the existing Telegraph Ridge FPD to the east and the King Range National Conservation Area to the west and the Honeydew VFC response area to the north. Homes and development within this annexation area are concentrated along Windy Ridge Lane. All of the land within this area is zoned Unclassified.

Financial Information

The Telegraph Ridge FPD is funded primarily through a special assessment on property within the district that is applied at a rate of \$10 for unimproved property and \$30 for improved property. Annual revenue from the special assessment is approximately \$4,850. The District also receives a transfer of property tax funds from other special

districts through the ERAF process in the amount of approximately \$4,500 per year. The Telegraph Ridge FPD does not receive property tax revenue and will not request a share of property tax revenue within the proposed annexation areas.

Upon annexation, the District would receive approximately \$2,370 in special assessment revenue from improved properties within the annexation and approximately \$720 in special assessment revenue from vacant properties (there are a total of 14 public properties within the proposed annexation areas that are assumed to not contribute revenue to the District), for a total of \$3,090 per year.

C. ANALYSIS

The analysis of the proposal is organized into two sections. The first section considers the proposal relative to the factors mandated for review by the Legislature anytime LAFCOs review boundary changes. The second section considers issues required by other applicable State statutes in processing boundary changes, such as environmental compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act.

Required Factors for Review

G.C. Section 56668 requires the Commission to consider 17 specific factors anytime it reviews proposals for a change of organization or reorganization involving special districts. The majority of the prescribed factors focus on the impacts of the proposed boundary changes on the service and financial capacities of the affected agencies. No single factor is determinative. The purpose in considering these factors is to help inform the Commission in its decision-making process.

A summary of key statements and conclusions generated in the review of the mandated factors for the proposal follows, with a complete analysis provided in Attachment B.

- The annexation area consists of approximately 79 residents and 48 total housing units. Total assessed value of properties (land and improvements) is \$15,056,456.
- Land uses within the annexation area are very similar to land uses within the existing district, and include developed and undeveloped rural residential land, timber land, and grazing land.
- There is little development potential within the annexation area. Future demands for services are expected to be similar to the current service demands.
- The approval of this annexation would enable the district to extend its existing funding source (special assessment) within the annexation area, beyond donations, from which the fire department can rely upon into the future and improve service delivery.

Other Considerations

- Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence

A Municipal Service Review (MSR) has been prepared to evaluate the services to be provided prior to amending a SOI in accordance with Government Code Section 56430 (Attachment C). MSR determinations are included in this report. The Telegraph Ridge FPD does not propose a SOI beyond the proposed new district boundaries. As a result, the district boundaries and SOI would be coterminous.

- Environmental Review

The proposed annexation is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)3 because it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question will have a significant effect on the environment - where the activity is the establishment of a district boundary and a funding source for a service provider that has provided service for many years, that does not involve development or a change in the manner for which an existing service is provided.

- Conducting Authority Proceedings

All proposed boundary changes approved by the Commission are subject to conducting authority proceedings (i.e., protest hearing) unless waived in accordance with criteria outlined under G.C. Section 56663. Unless written opposition is received from landowners or registered voters within the affected territory prior to the conclusion of the Commission's proceedings on the proposal, the proposal is not subject to conducting authority proceedings under G.C. Section 56663. To date, no written opposition has been received.

D. RECOMMENDATION

The proposed SOI amendment and annexation to the Telegraph Ridge FPD appears appropriate relative to the factors required by statute for consideration. It is recommended the following conditions of approval be applied with delegation to the Executive Officer to determine when the requested actions have been sufficiently satisfied before proceeding with a recordation.

- Completion of the 30-day reconsideration period provided under G.C. Section 56895.
- Completion of conducting authority proceedings by Executive Officer (unless waived pursuant to G.C. Section 56663).
- Submittal of a final map and geographic description of the affected territory conforming to the requirements of the State Board of Equalization.
- Payment of any outstanding fees as identified in the Commission's adopted fee schedule.

Alternatives for Commission Action

Staff has identified three options for Commission consideration with respect to the proposal. These options are summarized below.

- Alternative Action One (Recommended):
Adopt the draft resolution identified as Attachment D, approving the proposal with the recommended conditions along with any desired changes as requested by the Commission.
- Alternative Action Two:
Continue consideration of the item to the next regular meeting and provide direction to staff for additional information as needed.
- Alternative Action Three:
Disapprove the proposal. Disapproval would statutorily prohibit the initiation of a similar proposal for one year unless a request for reconsideration is filed and approved within 30 days of Commission action.

Procedures for Consideration

This item has been agendaized for consideration as part of a noticed public hearing. The following procedures are recommended with respect to the Commission's consideration of this item:

- A. Receive verbal report from staff
- B. Open the public hearing and invite testimony.
- C. Discuss item and – if appropriate – close the hearing and consider action on recommendation:

"I move to adopt Resolution No. 15-09, approving the Sphere of Influence Amendment and Annexation of Out of District Fire Service Response Areas to the Telegraph Ridge Fire Protection District, as described in the staff report, subject to the recommended conditions".

Attachments

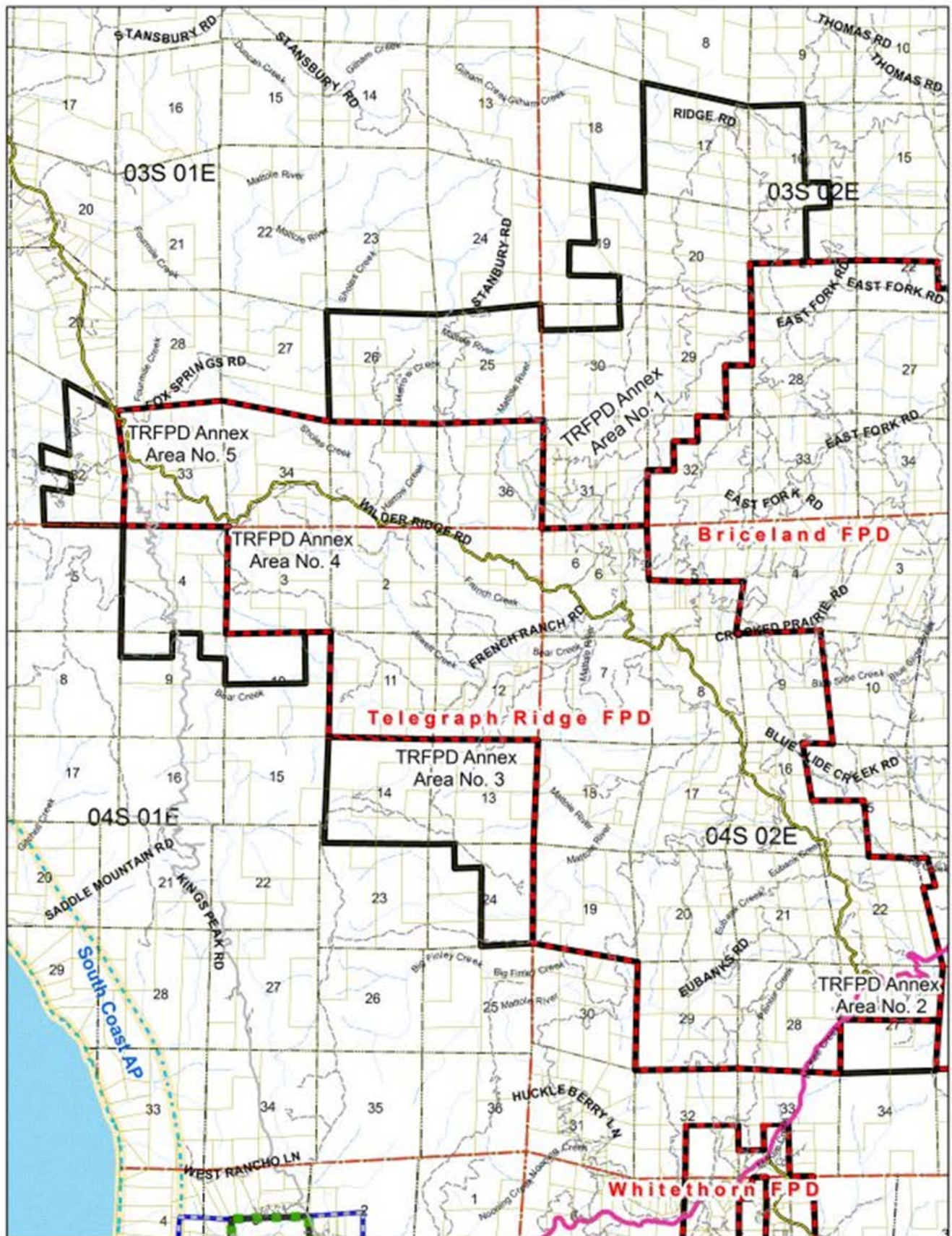
Attachment A: Map of Proposed Annexation Areas

Attachment B: Required Factors for Review

Attachment C: Municipal Service Review

Attachment D: Draft Resolution of Approval (No. 15-09)

Attachment A
Telegraph Ridge Fire Protection District
District Boundary and Sphere of Influence Map



ATTACHMENT B ANALYSIS OF REQUIRED FACTORS

Government Code Section 56668 requires the Commission to consider 17 specific factors anytime it reviews proposals for a change of organization or reorganization involving special districts. The purpose in considering these factors is to help inform the Commission in its decision-making process.

1) Population and population density; land area and land use; per capita assessed valuation; topography, natural boundaries, and drainage basins; proximity to other populated areas; the likelihood of significant growth in the area, and in adjacent incorporated and unincorporated areas, during the next 10 years.

The proposed annexation includes approximately 8,911 acres of land (155 parcels) located outside the boundaries that is currently served by the Telegraph Ridge Fire Protection District (FPD). The annexation area consists of approximately 79 residents and 48 total housing units. Total assessed value of properties (land and improvements) is \$15,056,456. Land uses within the annexation area are very similar to land uses within the existing district, and include developed and undeveloped rural residential land, timber land, and grazing land. There are no plans for land use or zoning changes or future development that are part of the proposed Telegraph Ridge FPD annexation.

2) The need for organized community services; the present cost and adequacy of governmental services and controls in the area; probable future needs for those services and controls; probable effect of the proposed incorporation, formation, annexation, or exclusion and of alternative courses of action on the cost and adequacy of services and controls in the area and adjacent areas.

Pursuant to Government Code Section 56653, the District prepared a Plan for Services to evaluate the needs of the proposed annexation. The need for expanded community services within the affected territory is limited to fire protection services. All properties utilize onsite water and septic systems. An analysis of the availability and adequacy of fire protection services relative to projected needs of the proposal follows.

- Fire Protection

The Telegraph Ridge FPD currently provides “good will service” to the proposed annexation area. The Telegraph Ridge FPD has responded to calls for service in the annexation area since the time that the district was formed. The demand for service in the annexation area has increased over time as additional development has been approved by Humboldt County. Approval of this annexation would enable the district to establish funding sources within the annexation area, beyond donations, from which the fire district can rely upon into the future and improve service delivery. In addition, the establishment of new district boundaries would clearly define service responsibilities for the benefit of neighboring fire service providers, land use authorities, the public and other service providers.

No improvements are proposed as part of this annexation. The Telegraph Ridge FPD would continue to provide service to the annexation area from its existing fire station on Ettersburg-Honeydew Road and using its current equipment and apparatus. It is hoped that the additional revenue would allow the Telegraph Ridge FPD to improve its capacity to provide service and the level of service provided.

3) *The effect of the proposed action and of alternative actions, on adjacent areas, on mutual social and economic interests, and on the local governmental structure of the county.*

The proposed annexation would maintain fire protection services to the annexation area that are currently provided by the Telegraph Ridge FPD by extending the District's existing funding sources to the annexation area. The proposed action would support the mutual social and economic interests of the proposed annexation area by sustaining community-based fire protection services and providing local governance for such services.

4) *The conformity of the proposal and its anticipated effects with both the adopted commission policies on providing planned, orderly, efficient patterns of urban development, and the policies and priorities set forth in G.C. Section 56377.*

Within the proposed annexation area, approximately 90 percent of land planned for resource production related uses. In addition, approximately 75 acres of the Robert Stansberry ranch (Resolution 76-22), which is subject to a Williamson Act contract, is located in the northern most portion of the annexation area along Stansberry Road. Based on Assessor's Use Codes, a greater percentage of land in the proposed annexation area is used for resource production related uses compared to the existing district.

With respect to G.C. Section 56377, large portions of the affected territory are substantially unimproved and devoted to an open-space use (Timber Production) under the Humboldt County General Plan. However, the annexation does not involve changes to the type or level of services provided, would not convert agricultural land or open space uses, and does not propose to change land uses or land use patterns. Therefore, the proposal does not conflict with G.C. Section 56377.

5) *The effect of the proposal on maintaining the physical and economic integrity of agricultural lands, as defined by G.C. Section 56016.*

The Telegraph Ridge FPD currently responds to calls for service throughout the proposed district boundaries and has done so for as long as there has been development and other uses that have demanded service. The proposed annexation does not involve changes to the type or level of fire protection services provided, nor would it convert agricultural land or involve the construction of or alteration to structures, grading, or other site disturbing activities on land planned for agriculture, and does not propose to change land uses or land use patterns. In addition, agricultural resources within the proposed

district boundaries will not be affected by the proposed annexation for the following reasons:

- It is common throughout Humboldt County that rural populations are dispersed within and around agriculture and timber land and logical boundaries for fire protection district would include such resource lands.
- Fire related districts within the county routinely respond to calls for service at houses on resource land, barns, warehouses, roads, logging sites, and within farm fields.
- The provision of fire protection services to land planned for agriculture was not noted as a cause of agricultural land conversion in the Agricultural Resources Report prepared in August 2003 for the Humboldt County General Plan Update.
- The Subdivision Map Act now requires that all subdivisions be within fire related district boundaries, even those intended for resource management purposes.

6) The definiteness and certainty of the boundaries of the territory, the nonconformance of proposed boundaries with lines of assessment or ownership, the creation of islands or corridors of unincorporated territory, and other similar matters affecting the proposed boundaries.

The proposed annexation area boundaries are drawn to follow Public Land Survey boundaries and the boundaries of Assessor's Parcels that currently receive fire protection services from the Telegraph Ridge FPD.

7) A regional transportation plan adopted pursuant to G.C. Section 65080.

The Humboldt Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) was last updated in 2013/14 and is a long-range transportation planning document for Humboldt County. No specific projects are included in the RTP involving the affected territory.

8) Consistency with city or county general and specific plans.

Land uses within the existing district and proposed annexation area are subject to the Humboldt County Framework General Plan (Framework Plan), Volume I, and the Zoning Regulations (Humboldt County Code Title III, Division 1). There are no plans for land use or zoning changes or future development that are part of the proposed Telegraph Ridge FPD annexation.

9) The sphere of influence of any local agency which may be applicable to the proposal being reviewed.

The proposed SOI amendment and annexation does not involve proposed service expansions to accommodate new development. The proposed annexation is intended to redefine the Telegraph Ridge FPD district boundary to reflect where fire protection services are currently provided. The Telegraph Ridge FPD does not propose an SOI beyond the proposed new district boundaries. As a result, the district boundaries and SOI would be coterminous.

10) The comments of any affected local agency or other public agency.

The Telegraph Ridge FPD provided sufficient notice to interested and subject agencies of its intent to adopt a resolution of application, pursuant to GC Section 56654(c). LAFCo staff also provided a Notice of Filing to interested and subject agencies. No comments have been received.

11) The ability of the newly formed or receiving entity to provide the services which are the subject of the application to the area, including the sufficiency of revenues for those services following the proposed boundary change.

The Telegraph Ridge FPD fire service is funded primarily through a special assessment on property within the district that is applied at a rate of \$10 for unimproved property and \$30 for improved property. Annual revenue from the special assessment is approximately \$4,850. The District also receives a transfer of property tax funds from other special districts through the ERAF process in the amount of approximately \$4,500 per year.

The Telegraph Ridge FPD has been providing fire protection, services to the proposed annexation area for many years. There is little development potential within the annexation area. Future demands for services are expected to be similar to the current service demands. The District would receive approximately \$2,370 in special assessment revenue from improved properties within the annexation and approximately \$720 in special assessment revenue from vacant properties (there are a total of 14 public properties within the annexation area that are assumed to not contribute revenue to the District), for a total of \$3,090 per year.

12) Timely availability of water supplies adequate for projected needs as specified in G.C. Section 65352.5.

All properties within the proposed annexation area are served by onsite water sources. There are no public water providers within the district and no fire hydrants. Water for firefighting is drafted from tanks, ponds, creeks, and pools.

13) The extent to which the proposal will affect a city or cities and the county in achieving their respective fair shares of the regional housing needs as determined by the appropriate council of governments consistent with Article 10.6 (commencing with Section 65580) of Chapter 3 of Division 1 of Title 7.

The proposal would not impact any local agencies in accommodating their regional housing needs. There are no plans for land use or zoning changes or future development that are part of the proposed Telegraph Ridge FPD annexation.

14) Any information or comments from the landowner or owners, voters, or residents of the affected territory.

A 21-day public hearing notice was mailed to all landowners and registered voters within 300 feet of the affected territory. The notice summarized the proposal and included a

map of the subject territory, as well as information regarding the public hearing. No comments, inquiries, or written objections have been received to date.

15) Any information relating to existing land use designations.

The following tables describe the land within the Telegraph Ridge FPD boundary and proposed annexation area and display information according to land use type (indicating the land use activity that is occurring within the parcel based on Assessor's Use Code data), General Plan Land Use Designation, and Zoning Classification.

Land Uses Based on Assessor's Use Code

Land Use Type	District			Annexation Area		
	Parcels	Acres	% of Total	Parcels	Acres	% of Total
Improved Agriculture	1	177.2	1.2%	0	0.0	0.0%
Improved Residential < 5 acres	40	1,438.2	9.8%	0	0.0	0.0%
Improved Residential 5 - 40 acres	35	1,178.6	8.0%	35	1,181.7	13.3%
Improved Residential >40 acres	20	1,193.9	8.1%	15	837	9.4%
Vacant Rural Residential	51	1,788.5	12.2%	14	401.7	4.5%
Improved Timber Production	35	3,129.0	21.3%	26	1,868.6	21.0%
Vacant Timber Production	56	4,910.0	33.4%	50	3,579.1	40.2%
Commercial	1	42.0	0.3%	0	0.0	0.0%
Mobile Home	3	106.0	0.7%	2	116.2	1.3%
Public or Exempt	13	803.5	5.1%	13	927.5	10.4%
Total	255	14,706.8	100%	155	8,911.8	100.0%

Source: Humboldt County Community Development Services Geographic Information System.

Land Use Type based on Humboldt County Assessor's Use Codes.

Note: Acreage based on parcel acres in the Land Information System. Some parcels extend across the existing district boundary.

General Plan Land Use Designations

Land Use Designation	District		Annexation Area	
	Acres	% of Total	Acres	% of Total
Agriculture Exclusive	7.8	0.1%	86.9	1.0%
Agriculture Grazing	1,913.5	13.0%	503.1	5.6%
Agricultural Land	7,038.4	47.9%	4,875.0	54.7%
Agricultural Rural	-	0.0%	0.2	0.0%
Public	588.8	4.0%	562.4	6.3%
Timber Production	5,158.5	35.1%	2,884.2	32.4%
Total	14,706.8	100.0%	8,911.8	100.0%

Zone Classifications

Zone Classification	District		Annexation Area	
	Acres	% of Total	Acres	% of Total
Agriculture Exclusive	1,082.2	7.4%	668.2	7.5%

Forest Recreation	647.3	4.4%	689.2	7.7%
Timberland Production Zone	5,915.9	40.2%	3,326.5	37.3%
Unclassified	7,061.4	48.0%	4,227.9	47.4%
Total	14,706.8	100.0%	8,911.8	100.0%

Source: Humboldt County Community Development Services Geographic Information System, Zoning Classification based on digital Zoning maps.

16) The extent to which the proposal will promote environmental justice. As used in this subdivision, “environmental justice” means the fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and incomes with respect to the local of public facilities and the provision of public services.

The proposal would not result in inconsistencies with environmental justice safeguards. The proposed annexation is intended to redefine the Telegraph Ridge FPD district boundary to reflect where fire protection services are currently provided and the areas to which those services are provided.

17) In the case of district annexation, whether the proposed annexation will be for the interest of landowners or present or future inhabitants within the district and within the territory proposed to be annexed to the district.

The Telegraph Ridge FPD has been providing fire protection services to the proposed annexation area for many years. There is little development potential within the annexation area. Future demands for services are expected to be similar to the current service demands. The proposed annexation would establish district boundaries that clearly define service responsibilities for the benefit of neighboring fire service providers, land use authorities, the public, and other service providers.

Telegraph Ridge
Fire Protection District
Municipal Service Review

July 2015



Prepared for Development of the District Sphere of Influence Report

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LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION AUTHORITY

Latent Powers, Enabling Legislation and Empowered Services

The fundamental role of the Local Agency Formation Commission is to implement the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Act (The Act) consistent with local conditions and circumstances. The Act guides LAFCo's decisions. The major goals of LAFCo as established by The Act are to:

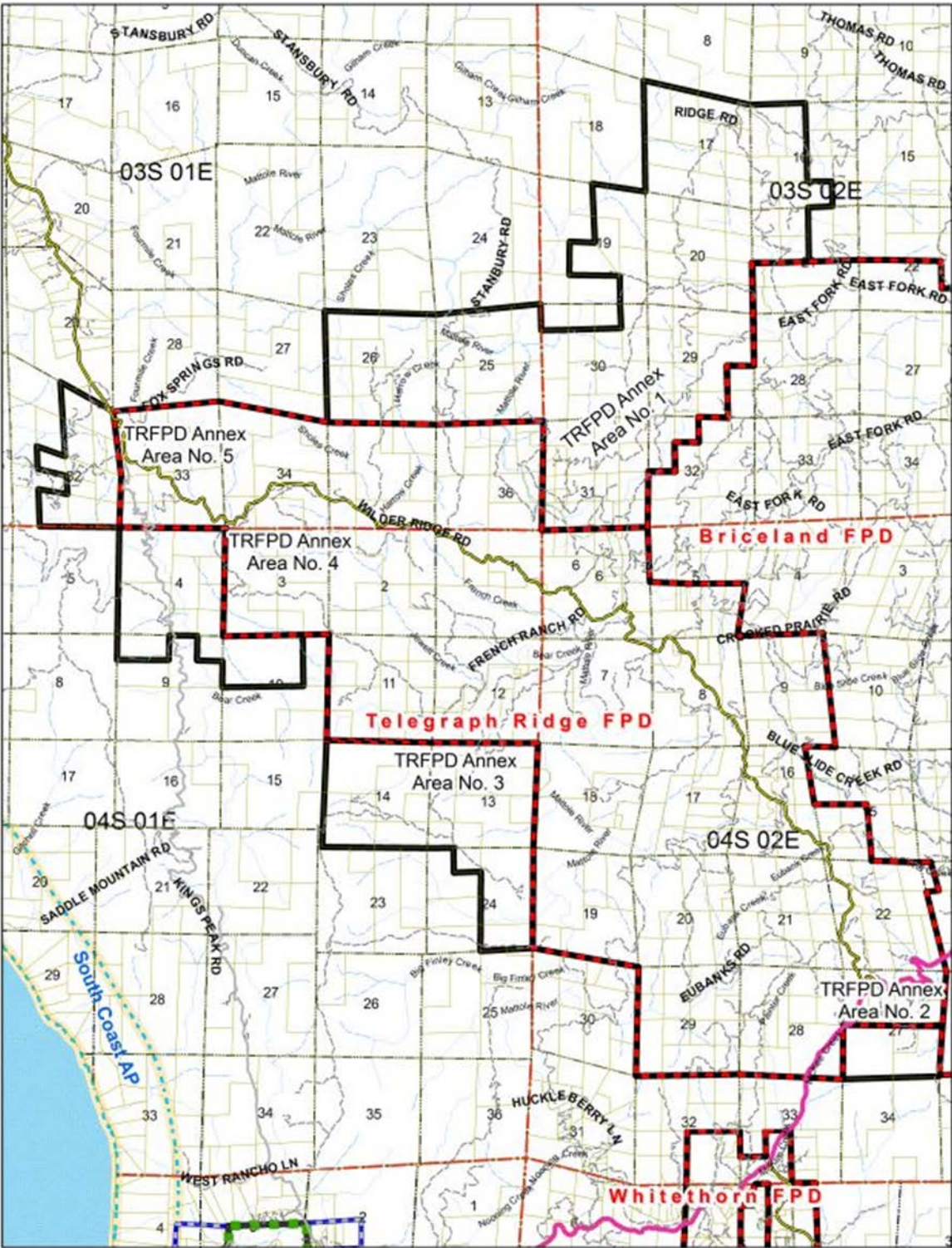
- Encourage orderly growth and development;
- Promote orderly development;
- Discourage urban sprawl;
- Preserve open-space and prime agricultural lands by guiding minimizing resource loss;
- Exercise its authority to ensure that affected populations receive efficient services;
- Promote logical formation and boundary modifications that direct the burdens and benefits of additional growth to those local agencies that are best suited to provide services;
- Make studies and obtain and furnish information which will contribute to the logical and reasonable development of local agencies to provide for present and future needs;
- Establish priorities by assessing and balancing community service needs with financial resources available to secure and provide community services and to encourage government structures that reflect local circumstances, conditions and financial resources;
- Determine whether new or existing agencies can feasibly provide needed services in a more efficient or accountable manner and, where deemed necessary,

As set fourth in Section 56425 (g) of The Act, on or before January 1, 2008, and every five years thereafter, Humboldt LAFCo shall review and update each Sphere of Influence (SOI). Additionally, an MSR shall be conducted with, or in conjunction with the action to establish or to update a SOI pursuant to The Act. Together, the SOI and MSR documents analyze the District's ability to serve existing and future residents.

In order to prepare and to update Spheres of Influence in accordance with Section 56425, Humboldt LAFCo shall conduct a service review of the municipal services provided in the Telegraph Ridge Fire Protection District (FPD). The commission shall include in the area designated for service review any other geographic area as is appropriate for an analysis of the services to be reviewed, and shall prepare a written statement of its determinations with respect to each of the following:

- (1) Infrastructure needs or deficiencies;
- (2) Growth and population projections for the affected area;
- (3) Financing constraints and opportunities;
- (4) Cost avoidance opportunities;
- (5) Opportunities for rate restructuring;
- (6) Opportunities for shared facilities;
- (7) Government structure options;
- (8) Evaluation of management efficiencies; and
- (9) Local accountability and governance.

Figure 1. Telegraph Ridge FPD Map-District Boundary and Sphere of Influence



AGENCY PROFILE

Governance

The Telegraph Ridge Fire Protection District (FPD, or District) was formed in March 1990 after a successful special election was held, which included the approval of a special assessment on property. The district was formed for the purpose of providing fire protection, rescue, and emergency medical services and any other services relating to the protection of lives and property pursuant to the Fire Protection District Law of 1987, Division Part 2.7 of the California Health and Safety Code. The District is governed by a five-member Board of Directors, elected by registered voters who live within the district.

District Boundary

Figure 1 (above) shows the existing district boundary as of April 2014 and the proposed new district boundaries that are defined to match the out of district “good will” response area. The delivery of fire protection services outside of district boundaries is often referred to as “good will service” because there is no local agency responsible for providing the service and the District in question provides the service out of good will rather than obligation. The Telegraph Ridge FPD provides fire protection to residents living along Telegraph and Wilder Ridges (generally along Ettersburg Road) between Thorne Junction and Fox Springs Road and is approximately 14,700 acres in area. The Telegraph Ridge FPD has a Sphere of Influence (SOI) that is approximately 16,354 acres in area and includes Fox Springs Road; Dutyville Road; Crooked Prairie Road; Blue Slide Creek Road; north of Thorn Junction area; Huckleberry Lane; Etter Ranch Road; and Kings Peak Road. Telegraph Ridge FPD provides “good will” service beyond its district boundaries and in some instances beyond its SOI, to a number of areas, including Dutyville Road, Etter Ranch Road, Windy Ridge Road, Kings Peak Road, and along Briceland Thorne Road between the Telegraph Ridge and Whitethorn district boundaries.

The Telegraph Ridge FPD proposes to annex approximately 8,911 acres that it serves outside its district boundaries because there is no other local agency responsible for fire protection services and the District has served these areas for many years. The proposed SOI expansion area and annexation area contain scattered subdivisions and rural residential development which are similar to land uses within the current district boundaries. The Honeydew Volunteer Fire Company (VFC), Briceland FPD and Whitethorn FPD have also provided “good will” service to portions of these areas. As a result, the boundaries of the proposed annexation area were developed in close consultation with each of these fire departments.

In order to accomplish this annexation, the Telegraph Ridge FPD would need to expand its SOI because it does not currently contain Windy Ridge Lane or Barnum Timber Road, which are also served by the District and proposed for annexation. In addition, as a result of the consultation with Honeydew VFC, Briceland FPD and Whitethorn FPD, approximately 2,953 acres of the existing Telegraph Ridge FPD SOI is proposed to be included in the Whitethorn FPD SOI and annexed to that district; and approximately 6,283 acres of the Telegraph Ridge FPD SOI has been included in the boundaries of the recently formed Briceland FPD with the approval of the Telegraph Ridge FPD.

CAL FIRE is responsible for the suppression of wildland fires within State Responsibility Areas (SRA). CAL FIRE stations are staffed during declared fire season, typically June to October, and engines may respond to calls other than wildland fires if they are available and it will not affect their core responsibilities. Although the State is responsible for wildland fire suppression within the SRA, CAL FIRE relies on local fire departments to respond to such incidents and provide initial attack to ensure that the fires are suppressed at the earliest possible stage. CAL FIRE will respond to calls other than wildland fire during fire season when stations are staffed and if available. However, this level of service cannot be relied upon for community fire

protection. Therefore, the current CAL FIRE forest fire stations and personnel cannot be relied upon as an alternative to the proposed district formations and annexations.

The purpose of the Telegraph Ridge SOI expansion and annexation would be (1) to annex areas surrounding the Telegraph Ridge FPD that are currently served by the district; (2) to enable the district to extend its existing funding source to the annexation area to support existing service and improve future service delivery; and (3) to establish new district boundaries to clearly define service responsibilities for the benefit of neighboring fire service providers, land use authorities, the public, and other service providers.

There are no other special districts, other than the Humboldt Bay Harbor Conservation and Recreation District and the Southern Humboldt Community Hospital District, located within the Telegraph Ridge FPD boundaries.

Growth and Population

There are approximately 156 residents living in 92 housing units within the District boundaries, according to the 2010 Census. Based on a review of Census Blocks within the proposed annexation area, the out of district “good will” response area, or proposed annexation area, contains approximately 79 people and 5248 housing units.

Humboldt County has grown at an average annual growth rate of 0.6 percent per year over the last ten to 12 years. Specific growth projections are not available for Telegraph Ridge and the surrounding area. Therefore, the expected growth rates for the County as a whole are the best measures of likely future growth for this area. If the population within the district boundaries, after annexation, were to grow at County-wide rates, 0.6 percent per year, the population of the District would increase by about 25 people in the next 20 years.

Existing and Planned Uses

The unincorporated Telegraph Ridge area is located in southwestern Humboldt County approximately 10 miles west of Redway along the Briceland-Thorne Road and 11 miles east of Shelter Cove. The Mattole River is located on the west side of Telegraph Ridge in the southern portion of the district and the eastern half of the district in the north.

Land Use. The existing district and proposed annexation area are comprised of a mixture of rural residential uses and are interspersed with undeveloped timber and grazing land. The following tables describe the land within the Telegraph Ridge FPD and proposed annexation area and display information according to land use type (based on Assessor’s Use Code data), General Plan Land Use Designation, and Zoning Classification.

LAND USE ACTIVITY - ANNEXATION AREA

<i>Land Use Type</i>	<i>Annexation Area</i>		
	<i>Parcels</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>% of Total</i>
Improved Agriculture	0	0.0	0.0%
Improved Residential < 5 acres	0	0.0	0.0%
Improved Residential 5 - 40 acres	35	1,181.7	13.3%
Improved Residential >40 acres	15	837	9.4%
Vacant Rural Residential	14	401.7	4.5%
Improved Timber Production	26	1,868.6	21.0%

<i>Land Use Type</i>	<i>Annexation Area</i>		
	<i>Parcels</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>% of Total</i>
Vacant Timber Production	50	3,579.1	40.2%
Commercial	0	0.0	0.0%
Mobile Home	2	116.2	1.3%
Public or Exempt	13	927.5	10.4%
Total	155	8,911.8	100.0%

Source: Humboldt County Planning and Building Department Geographic Information System.
Land Use Type based on Humboldt County Assessor's Use Codes.

Note: Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding. Acreage based on parcel acres in the Land Information System. Some parcels extend across the existing district boundary.

LAND USE ACTIVITY - DISTRICT

<i>Land Use Type</i>	<i>District</i>		
	<i>Parcels</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>% of Total</i>
Improved Agriculture	1	177.2	1.2%
Improved Residential < 5 acres	40	1,438.2	9.8%
Improved Residential 5 - 40 acres	35	1,178.6	8.0%
Improved Residential >40 acres	20	1,193.9	8.1%
Vacant Rural Residential	51	1,788.5	12.2%
Improved Timber Production	35	3,129.0	21.3%
Vacant Timber Production	56	4,910.0	33.4%
Commercial	1	42.0	0.3%
Mobile Home	3	106.0	0.7%
Public or Exempt	13	803.5	5.1%
Total	255	14,706.8	100%

Source: Humboldt County Planning and Building Department Geographic Information System.
Land Use Type based on Humboldt County Assessor's Use Codes.

Note: Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding. Acreage based on parcel acres in the Land Information System. Some parcels extend across the existing district boundary.

Land uses within the existing district and proposed annexation area are subject to the Humboldt County Framework General Plan (Framework Plan), Volume I, and Zoning Regulations (Humboldt County Code Title III, Division 1).

Approximately one-half of the existing Telegraph Ridge FPD is planned Agricultural Lands (AL). Land planned AL is typically remote, steep with high natural hazard areas containing marginal timber, grazing, mining and quarrying, recreational areas, watershed and wildlife areas, and occasional rural residences. Primary and compatible uses include resource production allowing intensive management opportunities, recreational uses, single family residences and cottage industries. Land planned for Timber Production (T) makes up over one-third of the district and is primarily suitable for the growing, harvesting and production of timber. Land Planned Agriculture General (AG) is interspersed throughout the district and was likely mapped to match the locations of clearings and prairies that could support grazing.

Within the proposed annexation area, approximately half of the land is planned AL; 32 percent is planned

Timber (T); six percent planned for public uses; five percent is planned Agriculture General (AG); and one percent is planned Agriculture Exclusive.

GENERAL PLAN LAND USE

<i>Land Use Designation</i>	<i>District</i>		<i>Annexation Area</i>	
	<i>Acres</i>	<i>% of Total</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>% of Total</i>
Agriculture Exclusive	7.8	0.1%	86.9	1.0%
Agriculture Grazing	1,913.5	13.0%	503.1	5.6%
Agricultural Land	7,038.4	47.9%	4,875.0	54.7%
Agricultural Rural	0	0.0%	0.2	0.0%
Public	588.8	4.0%	562.4	6.3%
Timber Production	5,158.5	35.1%	2,884.2	32.4%
Total	14,706.8	100.0%	8,911.8	100.0%

Source: Humboldt County Planning and Building Department Geographic Information System.

Note: Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding. .

ZONING

<i>Zone Classification</i>	<i>District</i>		<i>Annexation Area</i>	
	<i>Acres</i>	<i>% of Total</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>% of Total</i>
Agriculture Exclusive	1,082.2	7.4%	668.2	7.5%
Forest Recreation	647.3	4.4%	689.2	7.7%
Timberland Production Zone	5,915.9	40.2%	3,326.5	37.3%
Unclassified	7,061.4	48.0%	4,227.9	47.4%
Total	14,706.8	100.0%	8,911.8	100.0%

Source: Humboldt County Planning and Building Department Geographic Information System.

Note: Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding. .

Approximately 40 percent of the existing district is zoned Timber Production (TPZ) and 47 percent is Zoned Unclassified (U). The U Zone is applied to portions of the unincorporated area of the County not otherwise zoned, indicating that this area has not been sufficiently studied to justify precise zoning classifications. The remaining land is zoned either Forestry Recreation (FR) or Agriculture Exclusive (AE). FR is applied to forested areas of the County in which timber production and recreation are the desirable predominant uses and agriculture is the secondary use, and in which protection of the timber and recreational lands is essential to the general welfare. AE is to be applied in fertile areas in which agriculture is and should be the desirable predominant use and in which the protection of this use from encroachment of incompatible uses is essential to the general welfare. The proposed annexation area is zoned in a similar manner.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES

Current Infrastructure and Facilities

The Telegraph Ridge FPD fire station is located at 515 Ettersburg Road. The Telegraph Ridge FPD expanded the fire station in 2009 in order to accommodate a newly purchased engine. There are no public water providers within the district and no fire hydrants. Water for firefighting is drafted from tanks, ponds, creeks, and pools.

FACILITIES AND APPARATUS

<i>Station</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Apparatus (seats)</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Pump (GPM)</i>	<i>Tank (Gal)</i>
1	Telegraph Ridge 515 Ettersburg- Honeydew Road Whitethorn	E-5533 (7)	1985	III	1000	500
		A-5547 (3)	1985	IV		200
		A-5548 (3)	1990	IV	500	00

Personnel

The department is headed by a chief supported by two assistant chiefs. Telegraph Ridge FPD firefighters have received wide-ranging training and also participate as members of the Southern Humboldt Technical Rescue Team.

PERSONNEL & TRAINING

<i>Personnel</i>	<i>Number</i>
Auxiliary	2
Volunteer	14
Total	16
<i>Training Qualification</i>	<i>Number*</i>
Fire Fighter I or above	2
Wildland (CICCS)	9
First Responder (Medical)	6
EMT	0
Paramedic	0
HazMat First Responder Ops.	1
Rope Rescue	4
Swift Water Rescue	2
Fire Investigation	0

* Members trained to level

Calls for Service

The Telegraph Ridge FPD responds to between approximately 25 and 40 calls for service per year. A substantial portion of such calls are medical in nature. Other calls such as vehicle accidents may also involve the delivery of emergency medical services. Fires of all types can comprise 28 to 37 percent of Telegraph Ridge FPD calls for service.

CALLS FOR SERVICE

<i>Call Type</i>	<i>2011</i>		<i>2012</i>		<i>2013</i>		<i>2014</i>	
	<i>Calls</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Calls</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Calls</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Calls</i>	<i>%</i>
Structure Fire	2	8%	2	8%	1	3%	2	8%
Vegetation Fire	0	0%	0	0%	6	16%	2	8%

<i>Call Type</i>	<i>2011</i>		<i>2012</i>		<i>2013</i>		<i>2014</i>	
	<i>Calls</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Calls</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Calls</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Calls</i>	<i>%</i>
Other Fires	5	20%	5	20%	7	18%	4	16%
Medical	7	28%	4	16%	10	26%	7	28%
Vehicle Accident	5	20%	8	32%	10	26%	6	24%
Other Services	5	20%	3	12%	2	5%	1	4%
Hazardous Condition	1	4%	3	12%	2	5%	3	12%
Total Calls	25	100%	25	100%	38	100%	25	100%

ISO Rating

The Insurance Services Office (ISO) establishes fire insurance ratings for communities throughout the United States. One of ISO's more well known services is to evaluate the fire suppression delivery systems of fire departments and districts. The result of those reviews is an individual Public Protection Classification (PPC) rating number assigned to the community that the respective fire department protects. The ratings are presented in a rating class structure which ranges from 1 to 10. Class 1 is the highest rating, representing excellent fire protection and Class 10 is the lowest, meaning the community's fire department did not meet the minimum requirements of the Fire Suppression Rating Schedule and is not recognized by ISO. The PPC is commonly used by insurance providers to establish home and business fire insurance rates.

The Fire Suppression Rating Schedule is used by ISO to rate the response capabilities within a community. Fifty percent of the grade is based on the fire department (equipment, staffing, training, and geographic distribution of fire companies), 40 percent is based on the water supply (condition and maintenance of hydrants, and a careful evaluation of the amount of available water compared with the amount needed to suppress fires), and ten percent is based on fire alarm and communications systems (telephone systems, telephone lines, staffing, and dispatching system). Based on an ISO audit, the Telegraph Ridge FPD has a PPC rating of 9.

Planned Improvements

There are no planned improvements.

FINANCING

Revenues and Expenditures

Revenues. The District's primary source of revenue of approximately \$4,600 per year comes from a special assessment on property. The District also receives transfer of property tax funds from other special districts through the ERAF process in the amount of approximately \$4,500 per year. Generous donations from community members usually bring in another \$3,000. Estimated revenue for the 2013/2014 approved district budget is \$12,000.00.

Prior to the approval of this annexation, property within the existing district subsidized the delivery of fire protection services to the annexation area. Upon approval of the proposed annexation the District's special assessment would be levied on property within the annexation area and generate approximately \$3,100 per year.

Expenditures. Major expenditures as listed in the Telegraph Ridge Fire Protection District 2013/2014 budget are workers compensation insurance (\$2,500.00), liability insurance (\$1,500.00), and equipment (\$8,025.00). Total Expenditures added up to \$12,025.00.

Revenue from the annexation would be used to continue to support the delivery of fire protection services and the replacement of fire apparatus and major equipment. The annexation area is entirely composed of steep terrain with some poorly paved and dirt roads. Responses to the annexation area result in significant wear and tear on apparatus due to road conditions and extended travel time.

Budget

Table 1. 2013/2014 Telegraph Ridge Fire Protection District Approved Budget figures

BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013-14			
FUND NO.	2125	DISTRICT NAME	Telegraph Ridge FPD
<u>OPERATING EXPENSES</u>			
	Salaries and Wages		\$
	Director's Fees		
	Employee Benefits		
	Election Expense		
	Depreciation		
	Fuel and Oil		1500
	Insurance		4000
	Memberships		
	Operating Supplies		
	Office Expense		
	Contractual Service		
	Professional Services		200
	Publication and Legal Notices		75
	Rents and Leases		
	Repairs and Maintenance		6250
	Research and Monitoring		
	Travel and Meetings		
	Bad Debt Expense		
	Utilities		
	TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES		12,025
<u>NON-OPERATING EXPENSES</u>			
	Interest		0
	Other Non-Operating Expenses:		
	TOTAL NON-OPERATING EXPENSES		0
<u>FIXED ASSETS</u>			
	Land		\$0
	Structures & Improvements		
	Equipment		

TOTAL FIXED ASSETS

0

LONG-TERM DEBT

Bond Principal

\$0

Loan Principal

TOTAL LONG-TERM DEBT

0

TOTAL EXPENDITURES

\$12,025

Beginning Balance 07/01/13	Revenues FYE14	Expenditures FYE14	Balance 06/30/14
\$15,269.00	\$13,780.00	\$5,850.00	\$23,199.00

Cost Avoidance Opportunities

Current expenditures are on fire protection equipment and Volunteer personnel. With a remaining fund balance of \$23,199 (as of June 30, 2014), the Telegraph Ridge FPD has sufficient budgeting practices, and does not have an immediate need to reduce costs. The District uses mutual and automatic aid agreements to ensure that resources are available to large and complex incidents or when multiple incidents occur simultaneously.

LOCAL ACCOUNTABILITY

The Governing Board of the district currently has four serving representatives and one vacancy, and meets as needed at the Fire Hall or the former Ettersburg School.

Contact Information	
Telegraph Ridge Fire Protection District	
Contact:	Peter Lawskey (Chief)
Mailing Address:	P.O. Box 1152 Redway, CA 95560
Site Address:	515 Ettersburg Road, Garberville, CA 95542
Phone Number:	(707) 986-7488
Email/ Website:	telegraphridgefpd@gmail.com
Types of Services:	Fire Protection and Suppression Services & Medical Response
Population Served:	156 in 2014, 235 after annexation
Size of Service Area (Acres):	14,600 in 2011; 25,00 after annexation
Date of Formation:	Established in 1990
Staff and Facilities	
Number of Paid Staff	None (16 Volunteer personnel)

MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW DETERMINATIONS

Written Determinations.

56430. (a) In order to prepare and to update the SOI in accordance with Section 56425, the commission shall conduct a service review of the municipal services provided in the county or other appropriate area designated by the commission. The commission shall include in the area designated for a service review the county, the region, the sub-region, or any other geographic area as is appropriate for an analysis of the service or services to be reviewed, and shall prepare a written statement of its determinations with respect to each of the following:

(1) Growth and population projections for the affected area.

The existing Telegraph Ridge FPD boundaries have approximately 156 residents and 92 housing units within the District Boundary. The proposed annexation would add an additional 79 people and 48 housing units to the District boundary; however, since this area already receives “good will” service from the District there would be no immediate additional demand for service. Specific growth projections are not available for Telegraph Ridge and the surrounding area. Therefore, the expected growth rates for the County as a whole are the best measures of likely future growth for this area. If the population within the district boundaries, after annexation, were to grow at County-wide rates, 0.6 percent per year, the population of the District would increase about 25 people in the next 20 years.

Currently, the District has adequate infrastructure to serve the existing population and service demand. The District is in need of additional revenue to support the delivery of services (insurance, equipment, and training) and the regular replacement of apparatus. In addition, like all volunteer departments the Telegraph Ridge FPD needs to continually recruit additional volunteers and, as population increases in the future, additional volunteers will be required to maintain the service capacity of the district.

(2) Present and planned capacity of public facilities and adequacy of public services, including infrastructure needs or deficiencies.

As noted above, future growth is projected to occur, but at low annual rates. The District should review Building and Planning Division referrals and periodically determine what new facilities will be needed (i.e. new or expanded stations and apparatus). Humboldt County recently adopted an ordinance that would allow fire protection districts to adopt ordinances and enter into agreements with Humboldt County to implement development impact fees. Impact fees would allow the district to collect revenue from new development to offset the cost of facilities and equipment necessary to maintain the level of service for such development.

(3) Financial ability of agencies to provide services.

The Telegraph Ridge FPD operates a fire protection agency with very limited revenue in the face of ever increasing costs. The success of annual fundraising activities is critical to the ability of the District to pay mandatory expenses such as insurance and to maintain equipment and apparatus. The annual budget established and reported by the District reflects the money that is available to the District rather than the actual cost of operating a fire department in a manner that provides the level of service that is expected and meets the minimum standards. The additional special assessment revenue resulting from the annexation will begin to off-set the costs associated with providing past and future service to the annexation area. In particular, additional revenue will help pay for the maintenance, operation, and replacement of pumps and apparatus including fuel, fluids, and periodic servicing; annual workers compensation and liability insurance costs; replacement personal protective equipment before it is no longer serviceable; the replacement and upgrades to medical gear and equipment, and consumable medical supplies such as oxygen and other airway equipment, protective equipment for body substance isolation, and bandages; the maintenance, operation, and replacement of aging fire station and training facilities, including ever increasing utility costs; rescue equipment such as auto extrication gear, and rope and technical rescue equipment; thermal imaging cameras; radios; basic firefighting equipment such as forcible entry and ventilation tools, ladders, salvage gear, hoses and appliances, breathing apparatus; and training and recruitment expenses.

The Telegraph Ridge FPD periodically receives grant funds for specific purposes such as the purchase of equipment or training; however, the future grant revenue for the District is uncertain due to the availability of federal or state funds. In addition, the District carries over unexpected revenues from prior years which helps to maintain a modest reserve. The District is able to carry this reserve because it is frugal and many needed equipment purchases have been deferred. It is critical that some reserve is available to cover inevitable emergency costs and the additional revenue generated from the annexation will ensure that this practice continues.

4) Status of, and opportunities for, shared facilities.

While the response area for Telegraph Ridge FPD is directly adjacent to the response areas of Honeydew VFC to the north, the Briceland FPD to the west, and Whitethorn FPD to the south, the response times of these providers could be long, due to the rural geography of the region. The Telegraph Ridge FPD works closely and cooperatively with neighboring fire departments and has mutual and automatic aid agreements with them. In addition, the Telegraph Ridge FPD is a member of the Southern Humboldt Fire Chiefs Association.

(5) Accountability for community service needs, including governmental structure and operational efficiencies.

The district is staffed by a total of 16 volunteers. There are no developed areas within the district that do not receive services. The District is proposing to annex the areas outside the district to which it currently provides “good will” service. Residents within the existing Telegraph Ridge FPD and proposed annexation area receive adequate rural fire protection services. Registered voters who live within the proposed annexation area will have representation from the Telegraph Ridge FPD Board of Directors and can participate in board meetings.

(6) Any other matter related to effective or efficient service delivery, as required by commission policy.

The District should continue to coordinate with neighboring fire departments and explore opportunities to share resources and costs and continue coordination for fire protection, emergency response and training with CAL FIRE, especially for training and shared facilities.

REFERENCES

- 1 Humboldt County General Plan Update. Community Infrastructure and Services Technical Report, Preliminary Draft, October 2007. <http://co.humboldt.ca.us/planning/gp/gpdemo/GPU-TOC-Demo3.htm#ch7>
- 2 Sphere of Influence Report. Telegraph Ridge Fire Protection District. Humboldt County Local Agency Formation Commission. September 2005.
- 3 Telegraph Ridge Fire Protection District 2013/2014 Approved Budget.

RESOLUTION NO. 15-09**APPROVING THE SPHERE OF INFLUENCE AMENDMENT
AND ANNEXATION OF OUT OF DISTRICT FIRE SERVICE RESPONSE AREAS
TO THE TELEGRAPH RIDGE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**

WHEREAS, the Humboldt Local Agency Formation Commission, hereinafter referred to as the "Commission," is responsible for regulating boundary changes affecting cities and special districts pursuant to the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000; and

WHEREAS, the Telegraph Ridge Fire Protection District (FPD) filed a proposal with the Commission by resolution of application; and

WHEREAS, the proposal seeks Commission approval for a sphere of influence amendment and corresponding annexation of approximately 8,911 acres (155 parcels) of unincorporated territory outside the boundaries that is currently served by the Telegraph Ridge FPD; and

WHEREAS, the Executive Officer's report and recommendations on the proposal were presented to the Commission in the manner provided by law; and

WHEREAS, the Commission heard and fully considered all the evidence presented at a public meeting on July 15, 2015; and

WHEREAS, the Commission considered all the factors required by law under Government Code Section 56668 and adopted local policies and procedures.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Humboldt Local Agency Formation Commission as follows:

1. The Commission's determinations on the proposal incorporate the information and analysis provided in the Executive Officer's written report.
2. The Commission hereby determines that proposal is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)3 because it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question will have a significant effect on the environment - where the activity is the establishment of a district boundary and a funding source for a service provider that has provided service for many years, that does not involve development or a change in the manner for which an existing service is provided.
3. The Commission approves the proposal, subject to terms and conditions stated herein.

4. The proposal is assigned the following distinctive short-term designation:

TELEGRAPH RIDGE FPD SPHERE OF INFLUENCE AMENDMENT AND ANNEXATION
2015

5. The affected territory is depicted in a draft geographic description and map provided in Exhibit "A".
6. Pursuant to Government Code Section 56425, the Commission concurs with the determinations outlined in the Municipal Services Review.
7. The Municipal Services Review for the Telegraph Ridge FPD is hereby adopted.
8. The Sphere of Influence boundary for the Telegraph Ridge FPD is hereby amended to: 1) exclude approximately 2,953 acres that is included in the Whitethorn FPD SOI and approximately 6,294 acres that is included within the boundaries of the Briceland FPD; and 2) add approximately 3,315 acres for a total of approximately 8,911 acres. This amended sphere would be coterminous with the new district boundary.
9. Pursuant to Government Code Section 56425(e), the Commission makes the written statement of determinations, as described in Exhibit "B".
10. The effective date shall be the date of recordation of the Certificate of Completion. The Certificate of Completion must be filed within one calendar year from the date of approval unless a time extension is approved by the Commission.
11. Recordation is contingent upon the satisfaction of following terms and conditions as determined by the Executive Officer:
 - a) Completion of the 30-day reconsideration period provided under G.C. Section 56895.
 - b) Completion of conducting authority proceedings by Executive Officer (unless waived pursuant to G.C. Section 56663).
 - c) Submittal of a final map and geographic description of the affected territory conforming to the requirements of the State Board of Equalization.
 - d) Payment of any outstanding fees as identified in the Commission's adopted fee schedule.
12. Upon effective date of the proposal, the affected territory will be subject to all previously authorized charges, fees, assessments, and taxes that were lawfully enacted by the Telegraph Ridge FPD. The affected territory will also be subject to all of the rates, rules, regulations, and ordinances of the Telegraph Ridge FPD.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a meeting of the Humboldt Local Agency Formation Commission on the 15th day of July, 2015, by the following roll call vote:

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

Virginia Bass, Chair
Humboldt LAFCo

Attest:

George Williamson, Executive Officer
Humboldt LAFCo

EXHIBIT A

**MAP AND NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION
TELEGRAPH RIDGE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT ANNEXATION**

EXHIBIT B

STATEMENT OF DETERMINATIONS TELEGRAPH RIDGE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT SPHERE OF INFLUENCE AMENDMENT

The following statement of determinations is prepared pursuant to Government Code Section 56425 and fulfills LAFCo requirements to review and amend the sphere of influence (SOI), in conjunction with annexation, of the Telegraph Ridge Fire Protection District (FPD). The SOI is amended to be coterminous with the district boundary as approved by the Commission on July 15, 2015.

1. The present and planned land uses in the area, including agricultural and open space lands.

The SOI amendment and annexation does not involve proposed service expansions to accommodate new development. The annexation is intended to redefine the Telegraph Ridge FPD boundary to reflect what services are currently provided and the areas to which those services are provided. Land uses within the annexation area are very similar to land uses within the existing district, and include developed and undeveloped rural residential land, timber land, and grazing land. There are no plans for land use or zoning changes or future development that are part of the proposed Telegraph Ridge FPD annexation. The Telegraph Ridge FPD does not propose an SOI beyond the proposed new district boundaries. As a result, the district boundaries and SOI would be coterminous.

2. The present and probable need for public facilities and services in the area.

The proposed annexation is intended to redefine the Telegraph Ridge FPD boundary to reflect what services are currently provided and the areas to which those services are provided. The Telegraph Ridge FPD does not propose an SOI beyond the proposed new district boundaries.

3. The present capacity of public facilities and adequacy of public services that the agency provides or is authorized to provide.

Current Infrastructure and Facilities. The Telegraph Ridge FPD fire station is located at 515 Ettersburg Road. The Telegraph Ridge FPD expanded the fire station in 2009 in order to accommodate a newly purchased engine. There are no public water providers within the district and no fire hydrants. Water for firefighting is drafted from tanks, ponds, creeks, and pools.

FACILITIES AND APPARATUS

Station	Address	Apparatus (seats)	Year	Type	Pump (GPM)	Tank (Gal)
1	Telegraph Ridge 515 Ettersburg- Honeydew Road Whitethorn	E-5533 (7)	1985	III	1000	500
		A-5547 (3)	1985	IV		200
		A-5548 (3)	1990	IV	500	00

Personnel. The department is headed by a chief and two assistant chiefs. Telegraph Ridge FPD firefighters have received wide-ranging training and also participate as members of the

Southern Humboldt Technical Rescue Team.

PERSONNEL & TRAINING

<i>Personnel</i>	<i>Number</i>
Auxiliary	2
Volunteer	14
Total	16
<i>Training Qualification</i>	<i>Number*</i>
Fire Fighter I or above	2
Wildland (CICCS)	9
First Responder (Medical)	6
EMT	0
Paramedic	0
HazMat First Responder Ops.	1
Rope Rescue	4
Swift Water Rescue	2
Fire Investigation	0

* Members trained to level

Calls for Service. The Telegraph Ridge FPD responds to between approximately 25 and 40 calls for service per year. A substantial portion of such calls are medical in nature. Other calls such as vehicle accidents, may also involve the delivery of emergency medical services. Fires of all types can comprise 28 to 37 percent of Telegraph Ridge FPD calls for service.

CALLS FOR SERVICE

	<i>2011</i>		<i>2012</i>		<i>2013</i>		<i>2014</i>	
<i>Call Type</i>	<i>Calls</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Calls</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Calls</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Calls</i>	<i>%</i>
Structure Fire	2	8%	2	8%	1	3%	2	8%
Vegetation Fire	0	0%	0	0%	6	16%	2	8%
Other Fires	5	20%	5	20%	7	18%	4	16%
Medical	7	28%	4	16%	10	26%	7	28%
Vehicle Accident	5	20%	8	32%	10	26%	6	24%
Other Services	5	20%	3	12%	2	5%	1	4%
Hazardous Condition	1	4%	3	12%	2	5%	3	12%
Total Calls	25	100%	25	100%	38	100%	25	100%

ISO Rating. The Insurance Services Office (ISO) establishes fire insurance ratings for communities throughout the United States. One of ISO's more well-known services is to evaluate the fire suppression delivery systems of fire departments and districts. The result of those reviews is an individual Public Protection Classification (PPC) rating number assigned to the community that the respective fire department protects. The ratings are presented in a rating class structure which ranges from 1 to 10. Class 1 is the highest rating, representing excellent fire protection and Class 10 is the lowest, meaning the community's fire department did not meet the minimum requirements of the Fire Suppression Rating Schedule and is not recognized by ISO. The PPC is commonly used by insurance providers to establish home and business fire insurance rates.

The Fire Suppression Rating Schedule is used by ISO to rate the response capabilities within a community. Fifty percent of the grade is based on the fire department (equipment, staffing, training, and geographic distribution of fire companies), 40 percent is based on the water supply

(condition and maintenance of hydrants, and a careful evaluation of the amount of available water compared with the amount needed to suppress fires), and ten percent is based on fire alarm and communications systems (telephone systems, telephone lines, staffing, and dispatching system). Based on an ISO audit, the Telegraph Ridge FPD has a PPC rating of 9.

4. The existence of any social or economic communities of interest in the area.

There are no distinct social or economic communities within the Telegraph Ridge FPD boundaries or annexation areas, aside from the general Telegraph Ridge/Ettersburg community. The proposed annexations are logically part of these communities. The proposed annexation would solidify connections between these communities.

5. For an update of a sphere of influence of a city or special district that provides public facilities or services related to sewers, municipal and industrial water, or structural fire protection...the present and probable need for those public facilities and services of any disadvantaged unincorporated communities within the existing sphere of influence.

Based on a review of the 2014 Humboldt County Housing Element, which analyzes Unincorporated Legacy Communities (ULC) as required by SB 244 (2011), there are no disadvantaged communities based on Census Designated Places within the TRFPD or the proposed annexation area.