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Humboldt LAFCo  
1125 16<sup>th</sup> St. Suite 2020  
Arcata, CA 95521

June 4, 2020

Re: Humboldt LAFCo Staff Report from April 29, 2020 Special Meeting Referencing McKinleyville Incorporation

Dear Humboldt LAFCo;

At the recent McKinleyville Community Services District (MCSD) Regular Board Meeting held on May 6, 2020, the Board reviewed and discussed a staff report in 8C of the Humboldt LAFCo April 29, 2020 meeting, regarding the status of current and future proposals to the Commission. It was in this staff report that MCSD learned of ongoing discussions regarding a proposal for the incorporation of McKinleyville. MCSD is concerned that our staff was not notified about this meeting and continued discussions. We believe that continued discussions without MCSD being given the opportunity to have a seat at the table is not in the best interest of our organization or the community.

At a minimum, "a meeting and consultation among incorporation proponents, LAFCO and affected local agencies to clarify expectations of the incorporation process" should be included in the pre-application process, as noted in the California LAFCo Guide to the process for incorporations. As an affected local agency, MCSD has yet to be consulted on this matter. From this most recent Humboldt LAFCo staff report, it is unclear if this proposal is still in the "pre-application" phase or has moved far beyond this stage.

As a California Special District, MCSD provides many services and functions that a city might provide. In 2000, the State Legislature amended the Government Incorporation Code making it financially challenging to become a City. To improve this situation, the State Legislature has provided for expanded duties by special district that can encompass the vast majority of municipal functions. MCSD is, and has been, well known for providing water and sewer to McKinleyville area residents, but it provides so much more, including streetlight management and Parks and Recreation.

Through Parks and Recreation, the District provides unparalleled recreation activities and programs, including Basketball, Pickleball, and a botanical garden. The District partners with other community groups to provide an even wider array of opportunities for residents of all ages, such as soccer with Mad River Youth Soccer League, baseball through McKinleyville

Little League, the Teen Center with the Boys and Girls club, and Concerts in the Park with the McKinleyville Chamber of Commerce. Additionally, the Parks and Recreation Department works collaboratively with the McKinleyville Senior Center and the McKinleyville Union School District to provide special programs.

The District also provides public buildings that are used for community meetings, County budget presentations and other planning presentations or candidate forums for the District and the Board of Supervisors along with other legislative representatives. Furthermore, while the County provides Law Enforcement and Library services to the community of McKinleyville, it could not be possible without the collaboration with MCSD to provide buildings for a nominal rental fee.

The District works closely with the Humboldt County Planning department and the General Plan process, including playing an active role with the McKinleyville Municipal Advisory Committee (McMAC). Additionally, MCSD works in coordination with County Public Works Department and facilitated major input on improvements through central McKinleyville.

In summary, MCSD requests, specifically to Humboldt LAFCO and Humboldt County Board of Supervisors that MCSD be included in all matters relating to the discussion and process of incorporation of the McKinleyville community. This includes long term input into the financial analysis first to provide the basis for citizens evaluating any proposal to change political entities or forms of government in McKinleyville. For the past fifty years, MCSD has been the prevailing municipal form of government for McKinleyville in the form of a California Special District. MCSD is consistently honored as a District of Distinction in the state of California for its excellence in financial stewardship and infrastructures, political outreach, cutting edge community representation and transparency, especially in water deliver and wastewater quality. Through public trust, elected authorized services, and exceptional fiscal responsibility, MCSD allocates funds on programs and services authorized by the McKinleyville voters. MCSD is an integral factor to the cohesiveness of the McKinleyville Community and is a necessary party to all incorporation discussion and expects to be invited to all future meetings, discussions, and decisions. Thank you for your consideration and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Mary Burke, Board President  
MCSD Board of Directors

cc: Humboldt County Board of Supervisors  
Steve Madrone, 5<sup>th</sup> District Supervisor