



## AGENDA ITEM 8C

**MEETING:** May 18, 2022  
**TO:** Humboldt LAFCo Commissioners  
**FROM:** Colette Santsche, Executive Officer  
**SUBJECT:** **Preview of Proposed Formation of the Salmon Creek Fire Protection District**  
The Commission will receive a report introducing the proposed formation of the Salmon Creek Fire Protection District. The report is being presented for information only.

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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.

### DISCUSSION

On May 3, 2022, LAFCo received a notice of intention to circulate a petition to form the Salmon Creek Fire Protection District. The notice of intention is required prior to circulating and gathering registered voter signatures in support of formation. Chief petitioners include Dan Gribi, Fire Chief of the Salmon Creek Volunteer Fire Department, Peter Childs, and Linda Vandyke. Signatures must be received by at least 25% of registered voters within the proposed formation area (31 voters). Petition signatures will be verified by County Elections prior to a formal application submitted to LAFCo.

The reasons for the proposal are to support the ongoing operations of the Salmon Creek Volunteer Fire Department, which has served the area since 1978, by establishing a new special tax as a long-term community-based and locally controlled revenue source to support the sustainable delivery of fire and rescue services by the SCVFD; as a district the community would be eligible to apply for grant funding and access tax revenue that is available only to local government entities; and the new district would be governed by elected local residents, independent of the County.

As proposed, the Salmon Creek FPD would be supported by a new special tax that must be approved by 2/3 votes cast at a special or general election. To support a baseline budget, proponents are proposing a flat tax of \$75.00 per Assessor Parcel per year that would generate approximately \$20,000 to \$25,000 per year in revenue. In addition to the special tax, a property tax exchange agreement with Humboldt County

for 3% of growth in assessed value would generate approximately \$1,000 per year and increase thereafter based on the growth in property value.

Attached is a copy of the registered voter petition and a frequently asked questions handout. Signature gathering is in progress. It is anticipated that an application will be filed with LAFCo in the coming weeks. Upon receipt, LAFCo will send a notice of filing to affected and interested agencies. Once the application is deemed complete, a hearing date will be scheduled with 21-day notice published in the newspaper and mailed to landowners and registered voters within the proposed formation area.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

This item has been agendaized for information only. The Commission is invited to discuss the item and provide direction to staff as needed.

### ***Attachments***

Attachment A: Registered Voter Petition

Attachment B: Frequently Asked Questions handout