



## AGENDA ITEM 8A

**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

## Petition to Form the Salmon Creek Fire Protection District

This proposal is made pursuant to Part 3, Division 3, Title 5 of the California Government Code, Section 56000 et seq. of the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000.

(a) **This petition is to form a fire protection district** pursuant to the Fire Protection District Law of 1987, California Health and Safety Code Section 13800, and following, to be named the Salmon Creek Fire Protection District.

(b) **The boundaries of the proposed Salmon Creek Fire Protection District** are indicated on the map contained in Exhibit 1 to this petition and a geographic description is contained in Exhibit 2, and by this reference incorporated herein.

(c) **The continued operation of the proposed Salmon Creek Fire Protection District is to be funded through a voter-approved special tax** that would generate approximately \$25,000 per year and would be apportioned to property in the following manner: a maximum rate of \$75 per parcel per year commencing in fiscal year 2023-24. The special tax would be levied annually for an indefinite term (no sunset) and would be collected as part of the annual property tax bill and deposited in a fund for the sole use of the district (nominal processing and administration fees may be charged by the County). The special tax would include the following additional provisions:

1. **Inflationary Adjustment.** In each subsequent year and as part of a duly noticed public hearing, the District Board may choose to adopt an inflation adjustment factor to increase the maximum special tax rate by an amount equal to the annual change, if any, in the Consumer Price Index of the San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose area, up to a maximum increase of five percent. An inflationary adjustment may be applied annually to account for normal cost of living increases in providing fire services. This factor is the maximum that the special tax could be raised in a fiscal year. The District Board can adopt a lower adjustment factor or forgo the adjustment at the Board's discretion.
2. **Contiguous Parcel Exemption.** The special tax would include an exemption to allow Assessors Parcels which are contiguous, undeveloped, held under identical ownership and used solely for timber production or agricultural grazing, upon approval of an application of the owners thereof to the District Board, to be treated as a single parcel for purposes of this special tax.
3. **Hardship Exemption.** The special tax would include an exemption to allow landowners who fall within the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Guidelines for "very low"; or "poverty level" income, to apply to the Salmon Creek FPD Board for a partial or complete exemption from the tax

(d) **The proposed Salmon Creek Fire Protection District proposes to enter into a property tax exchange agreement with the County of Humboldt**, pursuant to an action by the Board of Supervisors on May 9, 2019, which identified different tax exchange agreements that may be offered depending on which of a set of expectations fire districts were willing and able to meet. The proposed Salmon Creek Fire Protection District would be eligible for tax exchange agreement Offer #5, whereby the County would share only a portion of future growth in property tax revenue within the district formation area (no base exchange). This exchange would come out of property taxes already paid and would not cost anything extra to property owners.

(e) **The proposed action(s) will be subject to Humboldt Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) approval and the following terms and conditions:**

1. **Voter Approval.** The approval of the formation of the district would be subject to a two-thirds vote in favor of a special tax by the registered voters voting upon the measure within the proposed district boundaries.

**Petition to Form the Salmon Creek Fire Protection District**

(f) **The reasons for this proposal are to:** (1) establish a fire protection district to support the continued operation of the Salmon Creek Volunteer Fire Department on behalf of the Salmon Creek Fire Protection District, and that would make available the benefits and authorities contained in the Fire Protection District Law of 1987; (2) establish an elected board of directors to manage the delivery of fire and rescue services to the community; (3) establish formal boundaries within which fire and rescue services can be adequately delivered and that clearly define the service responsibilities of the Salmon Creek Volunteer Fire Department on behalf of the Salmon Creek Fire Protection District, for the benefit of fire service providers, land use authorities, the public, and other service providers (4) provide the authority to establish revenue sources that can support the delivery of fire and rescue services and that the residents of the Salmon Creek Fire Protection District can rely upon into the future.

(g) **Signers of this petition shall be registered voters** within the proposed boundaries of the Salmon Creek Fire Protection District.

(h) **The name(s) and mailing address(s) of the chief petitioners are:**

Name	Address
Dan Gribi	3180 Thomas Rd, PO Box 608, Miranda CA 95553
Linda Vandyke	561 Howard Ln, PO Box 304, Miranda CA 95553
Peter Childs	3572 Thomas Rd, PO Box 116, Miranda CA 95553

(i) **The proposed boundaries of the Salmon Creek Fire Protection District would affect the Adopted Sphere of Influence (SOI)** of the Miranda Community Services District (CSD). The chief petitioners have consulted with the Board of Directors of the Miranda CSD regarding this proposal. Humboldt LAFCo would be required to address this potential SOI conflict in their action approving the formation of the Salmon Creek Fire Protection District.

(j) **The proposed Salmon Creek Fire Protection District would be governed by a three (3) member Board of Directors** who would be elected by the registered voters within the district and would serve four-year terms of office.

(k) Information to be filled out by petitioner signatories:

## Petition to Form the Salmon Creek Fire Protection District

### Notice to the Public:

You have the right to ask if this petition is circulated by a  
volunteer or a paid signature gatherer.

1	<div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; margin-bottom: 5px;">Print Name</div> <div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; margin-bottom: 5px;">Signature <span style="float: right;">Date</span></div>	<div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; margin-bottom: 5px;">Residence Address</div> <div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; margin-bottom: 5px;">City <span style="margin-left: 50px;">State</span> <span style="float: right;">Zip</span></div>	Official Use Only
2	<div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; margin-bottom: 5px;">Print Name</div> <div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; margin-bottom: 5px;">Signature <span style="float: right;">Date</span></div>	<div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; margin-bottom: 5px;">Residence Address</div> <div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; margin-bottom: 5px;">City <span style="margin-left: 50px;">State</span> <span style="float: right;">Zip</span></div>	Official Use Only
3	<div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; margin-bottom: 5px;">Print Name</div> <div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; margin-bottom: 5px;">Signature <span style="float: right;">Date</span></div>	<div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; margin-bottom: 5px;">Residence Address</div> <div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; margin-bottom: 5px;">City <span style="margin-left: 50px;">State</span> <span style="float: right;">Zip</span></div>	Official Use Only
4	<div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; margin-bottom: 5px;">Print Name</div> <div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; margin-bottom: 5px;">Signature <span style="float: right;">Date</span></div>	<div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; margin-bottom: 5px;">Residence Address</div> <div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; margin-bottom: 5px;">City <span style="margin-left: 50px;">State</span> <span style="float: right;">Zip</span></div>	Official Use Only
5	<div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; margin-bottom: 5px;">Print Name</div> <div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; margin-bottom: 5px;">Signature <span style="float: right;">Date</span></div>	<div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; margin-bottom: 5px;">Residence Address</div> <div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; margin-bottom: 5px;">City <span style="margin-left: 50px;">State</span> <span style="float: right;">Zip</span></div>	Official Use Only
6	<div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; margin-bottom: 5px;">Print Name</div> <div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; margin-bottom: 5px;">Signature <span style="float: right;">Date</span></div>	<div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; margin-bottom: 5px;">Residence Address</div> <div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; margin-bottom: 5px;">City <span style="margin-left: 50px;">State</span> <span style="float: right;">Zip</span></div>	Official Use Only

**Petition to Form the Salmon Creek Fire Protection District**

7	_____ Print Name _____ Signature <span style="float:right">Date</span>	_____ Residence Address _____ City <span style="float:right">State</span> <span style="float:right">Zip</span>	Official Use Only
8	_____ Print Name _____ Signature <span style="float:right">Date</span>	_____ Residence Address _____ City <span style="float:right">State</span> <span style="float:right">Zip</span>	Official Use Only
9	_____ Print Name _____ Signature <span style="float:right">Date</span>	_____ Residence Address _____ City <span style="float:right">State</span> <span style="float:right">Zip</span>	Official Use Only
10	_____ Print Name _____ Signature <span style="float:right">Date</span>	_____ Residence Address _____ City <span style="float:right">State</span> <span style="float:right">Zip</span>	Official Use Only

**DECLARATION OF CIRCULATOR**

(to be completed after signatures have been obtained)

I, \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Print Name) (Residence Address) (City/County) (Zip)

am a registered voter in the County of Humboldt, State of California. I circulated this petition section, and witnessed the appended signatures being written. Each signature is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the genuine signature of the person whose name it purports to be.

All signatures to this document were obtained between \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
 (date) (date)

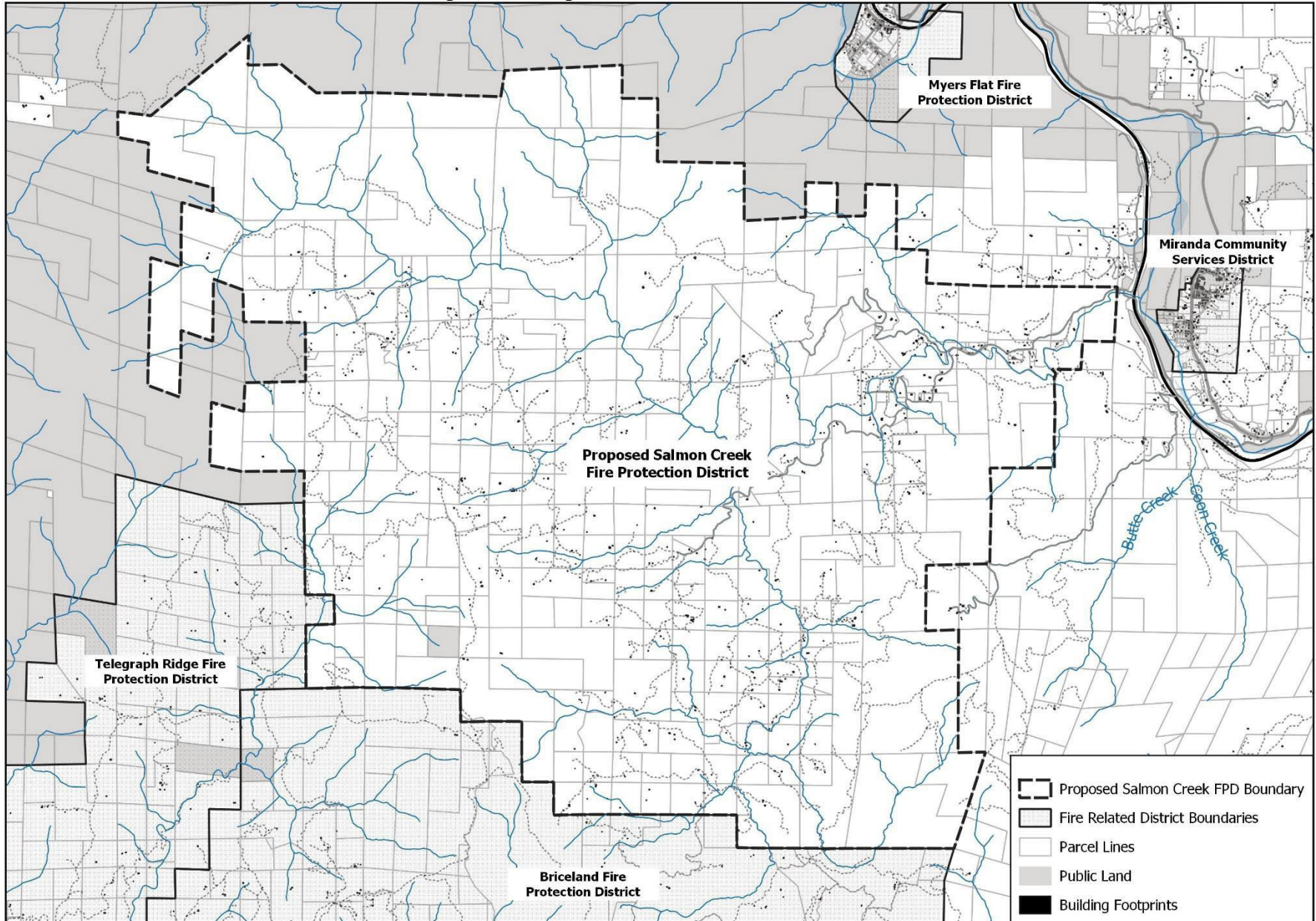
I certify, or declare under penalty of perjury, under the Law of the State of California, that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed at \_\_\_\_\_ California, on \_\_\_\_\_  
 (City/County of Signing) (date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 (Signature of Petition Circulator)

# Petition to Form the Salmon Creek Fire Protection District

## Exhibit 1: Map of the Proposed Salmon Creek Fire Protection District



## Petition to Form the Salmon Creek Fire Protection District

### Exhibit 2: Boundaries of the Proposed Salmon Creek Fire Protection District

General Description of the Proposed Salmon Creek District Formation Area. The proposed district formation area totals approximately 20,500 acres and includes:

The following Sections within Township 2 south, Range 2 east, Humboldt Base and Meridian:

- all of Sections 33, 34, and 35; and
- those portions of Sections 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 32, and 36 not within the boundaries of Humboldt Redwoods State Park.

The following Sections within Township 2 south, Range 3 east, Humboldt Base and Meridian:

- that portion of Section 31 not within the boundaries of Humboldt Redwoods State Park;
- the west half of the southwest  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 32.

The following Sections within Township 3 south, Range 2 east, Humboldt Base and Meridian:

- all of Sections 1, 2, 3, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, and 24;
- those portions of Sections 4, 5, 8, and 9 that are not the property of the United States of America;
- the northeast  $\frac{1}{4}$  and the south east  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 16, excepting therefrom the south west  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the south east  $\frac{1}{4}$ ;
- the northeast  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 21;
- the north  $\frac{1}{2}$  and the northeast  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the southeast  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 22;
- Section 23, excepting therefrom the southwest  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the southwest  $\frac{1}{4}$ ;
- the northeast  $\frac{1}{4}$  and the northeast  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the northeast  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 26; and,
- the north  $\frac{1}{2}$  of Section 25

The following Sections within Township 3 south, Range 3 east, Humboldt Base and Meridian:

- all of Sections 6, 7, 8, 18, and 19, and;
- Section 4, excepting therefrom the north  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the north  $\frac{1}{2}$  and the southeast  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the southeast  $\frac{1}{4}$ ;
- Section 5, excepting therefrom the north  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the northeast  $\frac{1}{4}$ ;
- Section 9, excepting therefrom the east  $\frac{1}{2}$  and the south  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the southwest  $\frac{1}{4}$ ;
- Section 17, excepting therefrom the southeast  $\frac{1}{4}$ ;
- Section 20, excepting therefrom the east  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the east  $\frac{1}{2}$ ;
- Section 29, excepting therefrom the south  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the south  $\frac{1}{2}$ ; and,
- Section 30, excepting therefrom, excepting therefrom the south  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the south  $\frac{1}{2}$ .

The following Assessor's Parcels are contained wholly or partially within the proposed Salmon Creek Fire Protection District

211-181-008-000	211-186-006-000	211-245-002-000	212-012-006-000
211-182-004-000	211-241-003-000	211-245-003-000	212-013-002-000
211-185-003-000	211-242-003-000	211-246-002-000	212-013-003-000
211-185-007-000	211-242-004-000	211-411-005-000	212-013-011-000
211-185-008-000	211-242-005-000	211-416-004-000	212-013-012-000
211-186-001-000	211-243-004-000	211-416-005-000	212-013-019-000
211-186-002-000	211-244-001-000	211-416-006-000	212-013-021-000
211-186-004-000	211-244-002-000	211-416-007-000	212-021-002-000
211-186-005-000	211-245-001-000	212-012-005-000	212-021-005-000

## Petition to Form the Salmon Creek Fire Protection District

212-021-007-000	212-071-006-000	212-320-002-000	219-071-001-000
212-021-010-000	212-081-006-000	212-320-003-000	219-071-003-000
212-022-001-000	212-081-017-000	212-320-004-000	219-071-005-000
212-022-013-000	212-081-019-000	219-011-001-000	219-071-006-000
212-022-014-000	212-081-021-000	219-011-002-000	219-071-007-000
212-022-017-000	212-081-022-000	219-011-003-000	219-081-001-000
212-023-003-000	212-091-002-000	219-011-004-000	219-081-002-000
212-024-004-000	212-091-003-000	219-011-007-000	219-081-003-000
212-031-005-000	212-091-006-000	219-011-008-000	219-081-004-000
212-031-006-000	212-091-008-000	219-011-009-000	221-011-001-000
212-032-017-000	212-091-009-000	219-011-010-000	221-011-002-000
212-032-018-000	212-091-010-000	219-021-001-000	221-011-003-000
212-033-004-000	212-091-011-000	219-021-002-000	221-011-006-000
212-033-005-000	212-091-014-000	219-021-003-000	221-011-007-000
212-033-006-000	212-091-015-000	219-021-004-000	221-011-008-000
212-033-008-000	212-101-001-000	219-021-005-000	221-011-011-000
212-033-011-000	212-101-005-000	219-021-006-000	221-011-012-000
212-033-012-000	212-263-002-000	219-021-007-000	221-011-013-000
212-051-001-000	212-263-006-000	219-031-003-000	221-011-014-000
212-051-003-000	212-263-007-000	219-031-004-000	221-011-016-000
212-051-010-000	212-263-008-000	219-031-005-000	221-011-019-000
212-051-013-000	212-263-009-000	219-031-006-000	221-011-020-000
212-051-015-000	212-263-010-000	219-031-007-000	221-011-021-000
212-051-020-000	212-263-011-000	219-031-010-000	221-011-022-000
212-051-021-000	212-263-012-000	219-041-003-000	221-021-002-000
212-051-025-000	212-263-013-000	219-041-004-000	221-021-003-000
212-051-026-000	212-263-014-000	219-041-008-000	221-021-004-000
212-051-027-000	212-263-015-000	219-041-010-000	221-021-005-000
212-051-028-000	212-263-040-000	219-041-012-000	221-021-006-000
212-061-002-000	212-263-041-000	219-051-001-000	221-021-007-000
212-061-003-000	212-263-042-000	219-051-003-000	221-021-008-000
212-061-007-000	212-263-045-000	219-051-004-000	221-021-009-000
212-061-012-000	212-263-048-000	219-051-005-000	221-021-010-000
212-061-013-000	212-263-051-000	219-051-006-000	221-021-020-000
212-061-014-000	212-263-053-000	219-051-009-000	221-021-021-000
212-061-015-000	212-263-055-000	219-061-001-000	221-021-022-000
212-061-017-000	212-263-056-000	219-061-004-000	221-021-023-000
212-061-018-000	212-263-058-000	219-061-005-000	221-021-024-000
212-061-023-000	212-263-059-000	219-061-006-000	221-021-025-000
212-061-028-000	212-301-007-000	219-061-013-000	221-021-026-000
212-061-029-000	212-301-008-000	219-061-014-000	221-021-029-000
212-061-030-000	212-301-009-000	219-061-016-000	221-021-033-000
212-071-001-000	212-301-011-000	219-061-017-000	221-021-034-000
212-071-002-000	212-301-012-000	219-061-018-000	221-021-035-000
212-071-004-000	212-301-013-000	219-061-019-000	221-021-036-000
212-071-005-000	212-320-001-000	219-061-020-000	221-021-037-000

**Petition to Form the Salmon Creek Fire Protection District**

221-021-038-000	221-061-037-000	221-081-004-000	221-121-006-000
221-021-040-000	221-061-038-000	221-081-005-000	221-121-007-000
221-021-041-000	221-061-039-000	221-081-006-000	221-121-008-000
221-021-042-000	221-061-041-000	221-081-007-000	221-121-015-000
221-031-003-000	221-071-001-000	221-081-011-000	221-121-023-000
221-031-005-000	221-071-002-000	221-081-012-000	221-121-027-000
221-031-011-000	221-071-003-000	221-081-013-000	221-121-029-000
221-051-005-000	221-071-004-000	221-081-014-000	221-131-001-000
221-051-007-000	221-071-005-000	221-081-015-000	221-131-011-000
221-061-001-000	221-071-010-000	221-091-012-000	221-131-016-000
221-061-002-000	221-071-011-000	221-091-014-000	221-131-017-000
221-061-003-000	221-071-012-000	221-091-017-000	221-131-023-000
221-061-007-000	221-071-013-000	221-091-024-000	221-131-024-000
221-061-008-000	221-071-014-000	221-091-025-000	221-131-032-000
221-061-009-000	221-071-015-000	221-091-029-000	221-131-033-000
221-061-015-000	221-071-017-000	221-091-030-000	221-131-034-000
221-061-016-000	221-071-019-000	221-091-031-000	221-131-035-000
221-061-017-000	221-071-020-000	221-091-032-000	221-141-014-000
221-061-019-000	221-071-024-000	221-091-034-000	221-141-015-000
221-061-020-000	221-071-025-000	221-091-035-000	221-141-016-000
221-061-021-000	221-071-027-000	221-091-037-000	221-141-017-000
221-061-023-000	221-071-032-000	221-091-038-000	221-141-018-000
221-061-025-000	221-071-034-000	221-091-039-000	221-141-019-000
221-061-030-000	221-071-036-000	221-091-040-000	221-141-020-000
221-061-031-000	221-071-042-000	221-091-041-000	221-141-021-000
221-061-032-000	221-071-043-000	221-091-042-000	221-141-026-000
221-061-034-000	221-071-044-000	221-091-043-000	221-141-027-000
221-061-035-000	221-081-001-000	221-121-004-000	221-141-037-000
221-061-036-000	221-081-003-000	221-121-005-000	221-141-038-000



**Salmon Creek Volunteer Fire Department is proposing to create a fire protection district to support sustainable community fire and rescue service!**

### **WHY IS DISTRICT FORMATION BEING PROPOSED?**

The Salmon Creek Volunteer Fire Department (SCVFD) was founded in 1978 by community members who recognized the need to protect people and property from fire and injury as scattered subdivisions and rural residential development expanded within the watershed. Since that time, the SCVFD has been sustained by generous contributions from Salmon Creek residents. People contribute their time as volunteer firefighters/emergency medical service providers, organizers, and grant writers, they make donations of cash and/or supplies and equipment, and they help organize and participate in fundraisers. All of this support is appreciated and has made the difference between having a local fire department and not having one. However, times are changing and the demands on local fire departments are increasing.

Like many other fire departments, the SCVFD is facing growing challenges that include:

- Ever increasing mandatory requirements and standards.
- Limited volunteer recruitment and retention programs and incentives.
- Inadequate levels and types of training opportunities.
- Limited administrative capacity to address growing organizational requirements.
- Insufficient funding to cover growing expenses, including:
  - The replacement of aging safety equipment and apparatus,
  - Communication equipment and infrastructure improvements,
  - Insurance and worker's compensation,
  - Training and certification for volunteers, and
  - Fire station maintenance and the growing need for an additional strategically placed station to increase response times.

The SCVFD is also struggling under the pressure of ever-increasing training and performance demands on volunteers and an increasing volume of calls. None of these challenges will be easily overcome but members of the SCVFD are continually working together and with neighboring departments to prepare themselves and their equipment to improve the level of community fire and rescue services and coordinated wildfire prevention and suppression within the watershed. **We also need your help to overcome**

**these challenges. Please join us in taking advantage of an opportunity to form a local fire protection district and establish a reliable and equitable source of revenue to ensure that the SCVFD survives and thrives.**

### **WHY NOW?**

To help address some of the challenges mentioned above the Humboldt County Fire Chiefs' Association commits a portion of their annual Measure Z grant funding to provide ongoing support for countywide fire service planning. These grant funds are supporting a technical team that is available to help us through the district formation process and will cover many of the associated expenses. Let's take advantage of this opportunity and help ensure the survival of our local fire department.

### **WHAT IS A FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT?**

- A fire protection district is a type of special district formed to provide services within a specific jurisdictional boundary and may be supported by revenue from a combination of taxes, fees, grants, and fundraising.
- A fire district formed in Salmon Creek would be governed by elected local residents, independent of the County of Humboldt.
  - Governing board members would be elected by the registered voters residing within the boundaries of the new district.
  - The existing SCVFD would continue to provide fire and rescue services, supported by tax revenue managed by the district board.

### **IS MY PROPERTY WITHIN THE PROPOSED SALMON CREEK FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT BOUNDARY?**

- Please use this [link](https://arcq.is/1mae8z)<sup>1</sup> to access an online map that shows the proposed district boundary; a simple map is also attached.
  - We are proposing to include all of the parcels where we are most likely to be called as the primary local responder.
  - We also want to include residents who consider themselves part of our SCVFD family and who expect to be served by us.
- The members of the governing board will be required to reside within the boundary of the district.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://arcq.is/1mae8z>

- It will be the registered voters who reside within the proposed district boundary who will vote on the following:
  - Forming a fire protection district and electing the governing board.
  - Establishing a special tax to support fire and rescue services.

#### **WHAT WILL THE NEW FIRE DISTRICT COST YOU?**

- **Special Tax:** A new fire district would be supported by a new special tax that must be approved by the voters of Salmon Creek.
  - To support a baseline, barebone budget, we are proposing a flat tax of \$75.00 per Assessor Parcel per year.
  - If the proposed special tax is approved by local voters (2/3 majority of votes cast), the amount will appear on your annual property tax bill.
  - Although these taxes are collected by the County, they do not go to the state like property taxes; they are deposited in a fund for the use of the district (nominal processing and administration fees may be charged by the County).
  - Landowners with multiple contiguous Assessors Parcels which are undeveloped, held under identical ownership, and used solely for timber production or agricultural grazing, will have the opportunity to lump them together so they are taxed as one parcel. An ordinance establishing the application process will be approved by the local elected governing board.
  - Initial estimates indicate that, if approved by registered voters, the special tax could generate between \$20,000 to \$25,000 per year in revenue. The range depends on how many property owners are approved to count multiple contiguous Assessors Parcels as one (see details above).
- **Tax Exchange Agreement with the County:** In addition to proposing the establishment of a new special tax, we are working on a proposal to the County to receive a portion of the property taxes already collected to support a local fire district (property tax exchange agreement).
  - If those negotiations are successful and the tax exchange agreement is approved by the Board of Supervisors, it is estimated that it could initially generate approximately \$1,000 per year and increase thereafter based on the growth in property value. This will generate revenue in addition to what is generated by the special tax.

- The revenue provided through this agreement between the District and the County will come out of property taxes you already pay and will cost you nothing extra.
- Between these new sources of tax revenue, which we don't have access to unless we are a district, and continued fundraising, donations and grants, the SCVFD will be able to maintain and improve its capacity to provide the services that we all depend on. The new tax revenue will be used to pay for recurring costs such as worker's compensation, liability insurance, training, and fire truck fuel and maintenance.

**HOW WILL THE NEW FIRE DISTRICT BENEFIT YOU?**

- It will give us peace of mind that the SCVFD will be able to continue to respond to fires, medical distress calls, vehicle accidents, hazardous material spills and the many other calls we receive (note that the majority of calls to the fire department are for emergency medical services).
- As a result of the widespread wildfires experienced the last couple years, fire insurance is getting harder and harder to obtain if you choose to live in a rural area. Being located within the boundaries of a fire district may greatly benefit your ability to obtain fire insurance or keep the policy you already have.
- In response to severe wildfire impacts and changes to state law, property can only be subdivided if it is located within the boundaries of a fire-related district. Being located within a fire district will allow you to develop or subdivide your parcel, if you choose to do so, and it is consistent with county General Plan and Zoning requirements.

**HOW WILL THE SALMON CREEK FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT BENEFIT THE COMMUNITY AND THE EXISTING VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT?**

- Forming a fire district will establish a consistent, long-term community-based and locally controlled revenue source to support the sustainable delivery of fire protection services by the SCVFD.
- The SCVFD would still rely on volunteers, but the new district will have more revenue to support its volunteer firefighters through increased training opportunities and improved equipment.
- The new district will be eligible to apply for grant funding and access tax revenue that is available only to local government entities like fire districts.

- We know that many of the Salmon Creek residents enjoy the Fire Department Bar-B-Que fundraisers. The good news is that they will continue! However, with the new fire district funding covering our basic costs, monies donated at our fundraisers can now be used for strategic purchases and capacity building efforts.

#### **WHAT ARE THE STEPS IN THE DISTRICT FORMATION PROCESS?**

- Note that the following steps are not necessarily in sequential order.
- A Notice of Intent to Circulate a Petition to form a Fire Protection District will be posted in the newspaper and filed with the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) and County Clerk for a 30-day posting period.
- A petition will be circulated and the signatures of at least 25% of the registered voters in Salmon Creek must be collected to move forward with the district formation application process. Petition signatures will be verified by County Elections and applications by petition accepted as complete by Humboldt LAFCo as the lead agency
- The district formation application will be submitted to LAFCo:
  - Upon receipt, LAFCo will send a notice of filing to interested/affected agencies.
  - Once the application is determined to be complete, a hearing date will be scheduled.
  - A public notice will be issued 21 days in advance of the hearing.
  - If written objections are received by the close of the hearing, a protest hearing will be scheduled to take place in Salmon Creek and another notice will be issued 21 days before that hearing.
  - LAFCo will then confirm hearing results and adopt a resolution requesting the Board of Supervisors to call the election.
- A Tax Exchange Agreement will be proposed to the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors:
  - A proposal will be submitted, demonstrating the proposed Salmon Creek Fire Protection District's ability to meet expectations for becoming a fire protection district and responsibly administering public funds generated from property taxes.
  - If approved, the Tax Exchange Agreement will be executed by and between the Salmon Creek Fire Protection District and the County. This agreement will be contingent upon the registered voters approving the district formation and the new special tax.
- Election Process:

- If the schedule for all of the above steps holds, the election will take place on March 7, 2023.
- A consolidated District Election will be called by the Board of Supervisors for a vote on the Salmon Creek Fire Protection District formation and special tax.
- District formation will be conditioned upon voter approval of a special tax.
- If 2/3<sup>rd</sup>s of the votes cast by registered voters are in favor of the new special tax, the proposed district formation will move forward.

**LEARN MORE!**

Contact Us: If you have questions and want to learn more about this effort, please contact:

Dan Gribi(707) 358-0000 [dgribi@asis.com](mailto:dgribi@asis.com)

Linda Carion (707) 943-1820 [sin.green.farms@gmail.com](mailto:sin.green.farms@gmail.com)

