



AGENDA ITEM 8B

MEETING: January 20, 2021
TO: Humboldt LAFCo Commissioners
FROM: Krystle Heaney, LAFCo Clerk/Analyst
SUBJECT: **City of Fortuna Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Update**
The Commission will review and consider approving the City of Fortuna Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Update. Staff proposes minor changes to the SOI in order to follow parcel lines and designated planning areas. This is a continued hearing from the November 18th LAFCo meeting.

BACKGROUND

The Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act directs Local Agency Formation Commissions (LAFCos) to regularly prepare municipal service reviews (MSRs) in conjunction with establishing and updating each local agency's sphere of influence (SOI). The legislative intent of MSRs is to proactively assess the availability, capacity, and efficiency of local governmental services prior to making SOI determinations.

DISCUSSION

The City of Fortuna ("City") is located in Humboldt County, approximately 20 miles south of Eureka and was founded in 1906. The City lies along Highway 101, east of the Eel River and is bounded by rising hillsides, bluffs, and scattered forests. The City covers approximately 4.7 square miles and includes several annexations that have taken place since the last MSR. These annexations include Riverwalk (2013), Upper 9th Street (2015), and Strongs Creek Valley (2016).

Fortuna is governed by a five-member city council whose members are elected at large. The City offers a full range of municipal services and operates its own police department. The City also provides water service to approximately 55 customers outside the City limits. Other public service providers that serve both the incorporated and unincorporated areas surrounding Fortuna include the Fortuna Fire Protection District and the Rohner Community Recreation and Park District.

Within the City's SOI to the northwest is the Palmer Creek Community Services District (CSD). The City provides wastewater treatment for the CSD though an agreement originally drafted in 1989 and set to be updated within the next year. Per the agreement, any new connections to the Palmer Creek CSD system must be approved by the Palmer Creek CSD and the City of Fortuna with fees paid to both.

Based on input from the Commission at the November 18, 2020 meeting, staff has revised the MSR to include the following:

- Tribal land acknowledgement under City Formation and Development

- Additional information on housing development and policies under Population and Development
- Discussion of the change from Level of Service to Vehicle Miles Traveled for assessing traffic impacts
- Expanded discussion on congested traffic areas and hazard planning
- Other minor changes or corrections as noted in track changes

RECOMMENDATION

This item has been agendaized for consideration as part of a noticed public hearing continued from the November 18, 2020 commission meeting. The following procedures are recommended with respect to the Commission's consideration of this item:

- 1) Receive verbal report from staff;
- 2) Open the public hearing and invite testimony (mandatory); and
- 3) Discuss item and – if appropriate – close the hearing and consider action on recommendation:

"I move to adopt Resolution No. 21-02, thereby approving the City of Fortuna Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Update, as described in the staff report.

Alternative Action:

Should the Commission wish to further discuss the MSR/SOI and receive additional information from staff, the Commission can move to continue the public hearing to the next regularly scheduled public meeting.

Attachments

Attachment A: Revised City of Fortuna MSR and SOI Update

Attachment B: Resolution No. 21-02