



## AGENDA ITEM 8B

**MEETING:** May 17, 2023

**TO:** Humboldt LAFCo Commissioners

**FROM:** Colette Santsche, Executive Officer

**SUBJECT:** **Status of Current and Future Proposals**

The Commission will receive a report summarizing active and future proposals. This report is being presented for information only.

---

### **BACKGROUND**

The Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 delegates Local Agency Formation Commissions (LAFCOs) with regulatory and planning duties to coordinate the logical formation and development of local governmental agencies. This includes approving or disapproving proposals for annexation, sphere of influence amendments, and outside agency service requests.

### **DISCUSSION**

Following is a summary of active and future proposals.

#### ***Active Proposals***

##### Salmon Creek Fire Protection District Formation

The Election was held on March 7, 2023. The final election report shows a 96.49% approval for formation of the Salmon Creek FPD and a 95.69% approval for the special tax to support the newly formed District. Members voted to the Board of Directors for the District include Carleen Cochran, Dan Gribi, and Linda Vandyke. The new board members had a swearing in ceremony on April 27<sup>th</sup> that was attended by Supervisor Bushnell and Juan Pablo Cervantes, County Registrar of Voters. In the coming weeks, staff will be filing a statement of boundary change with the State Board of Equalization.

##### Garberville Fire Protection District 2022 Annexation

The Election was held on March 7, 2023. The final election report shows a 78.51% approval for the Garberville FPD annexation/special tax. In the coming weeks, staff will be filing a statement of boundary change with the State Board of Equalization.

#### ***Future Proposals***

There are several potential new proposals to the Commission in the near future based on discussions with proponents. A summary of these anticipated proposals follows.

##### Fire Services Coordination Efforts

Over the last 7 years, a portion of Measure Z funds granted to the Humboldt County Fire Chiefs Association has been allocated to providing technical assistance for sustainable community fire protection to address the lack of complete community coverage and sustainable revenue. Due to the uncertainty in Measure Z funds, it is uncertain whether continued technical assistance funding to support countywide fire services coordination efforts, including annexation/consolidation applications will continue into FY 2023-24. An informal working group consisting of County of Humboldt (Board of Supervisors, Public

Works, and County Administrative Office), LAFCo, and Humboldt County Fire Chiefs' Association representatives continue to meet as needed to address service and funding needs on a countywide basis, including the following fire services planning efforts:

- Arcata FPD Annexation of the Upper Jacoby Creek and Fickle Hill Areas.
- Kneeland FPD Annexation of goodwill response areas.
- County Service Area 4 (CSA 4) governance structure and funding options in the Trinidad/Big Lagoon/Westhaven areas.
- Eel River Valley Shared Services options and direct charge list support.
- 2021 Annual Fire Chief's Report highlighting service calls and achievements of emergency response providers throughout Humboldt County.
- Ongoing coordination and meetings with affected timber companies to address the statutory exclusion of commercial forest lands that are timbered in Fire Protection District Law.
- Creating a toolkit for new and existing fire districts to understand all statutory, financial and reporting requirements under state law.

#### Willow Creek CSD Activation of Powers – Wastewater Collection and Treatment

Willow Creek CSD has gone out to bid for construction of a community wastewater collection and treatment system for downtown Willow Creek and adjacent neighborhoods. Construction is not expected until summer of 2023. In order to provide this service, the Willow Creek CSD must apply for activation of powers through LAFCo. Staff provided guidance to the District on development of a Resolution of Application, CEQA Addendum, and Notice of Intent for publication in the local newspaper. The District Board will be considering the Resolution of Application at a meeting in the near future.

#### Humboldt CSD McKay Ranch Annexation (SCH #: 2019049166)

Humboldt County is lead agency for the North McKay Ranch General Plan Amendment (GPA), Zoning Reclassification (ZR), Tentative Subdivision Map and Planned Development (PD) Permit for future residential and commercial development. The proposed subdivision is located in the Cutten area of Humboldt Community Services District's (CSD) sphere of influence and is expected to consist of approximately 320 residential units and two (2) commercial lots at full build-out. Annexation to the Humboldt CSD would be required making Humboldt LAFCo a responsible agency.

A Draft EIR was released in May 2020 with a partial recirculation of the Draft EIR released for review and comment in December 2021. The Final EIR for the project was approved by the Humboldt Planning Commission at the January 6, 2022 meeting and was presented to the Board of Supervisors on March 8, 2022. Since that time, the Board has been in conference with legal council regarding anticipated litigation on the FEIR for the project. On March 7, 2023, the Board of Supervisors considered the project again based on proposed changes, voted to adopt the FEIR, and approved rezoning for the project. Based on this approval, it is likely that an annexation application from Humboldt CSD will be received in the near future.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends the Commission receive and file this report.