

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-02

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE FERNDALE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT INITIATING PROCEEDINGS AND SUBMITTING A RESOLUTION OF APPLICATION TO THE HUMBOLDT LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION FOR ANNEXATION OF TERRITORY REPRESENTING ITS GOODWILL RESPONSE AREA

WHEREAS, the Ferndale Fire Protection District (“District”) provides fire protection, emergency medical response, rescue services, and other essential emergency functions within its jurisdiction, and for many years has voluntarily responded to emergencies in adjacent unincorporated areas as part of its established goodwill response area, without a dedicated funding source for those services; and

WHEREAS, residents and properties within the goodwill response area rely on the District for fire protection and emergency response services, yet lie outside the District’s legal boundaries and tax base, resulting in an inequitable and unsustainable service arrangement; and

WHEREAS, the District has determined that existing revenue sources are insufficient to sustain an adequate level of fire protection and emergency response services due to increasing service demands, rising operational costs, and the need to maintain firefighter readiness and safety; and

WHEREAS, additional locally controlled funding is necessary to maintain and improve service levels, including the purchase, operation, and maintenance of firefighting equipment and apparatus; the recruitment, training, and retention of volunteer personnel; and the ongoing maintenance and improvement of essential fire station facilities and related capital projects; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors has introduced Ordinance No. 2026-1, proposing a new special tax to provide a stable and equitable revenue source to support essential fire protection and emergency response services, and such special tax will be submitted to the qualified electors of the District at the November 3, 2026 general election; and

WHEREAS, the District desires to annex adjacent unincorporated territory as depicted in Exhibit A (“Annexation Territory”), in order to formalize long-standing service relationships, improve equitable funding, and ensure consistent and sustainable fire protection services for all residents; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Government Code § 56654, a district may initiate proceedings for a change of organization by adopting a resolution of application to the Local Agency Formation Commission (“LAFCo”) that includes the required information, including a description of the territory to be annexed, the reasons for the proposal, and any proposed terms and conditions; and

WHEREAS, concurrent with this proposed annexation, the District proposes minor amendments to its adopted Sphere of Influence approved by Humboldt LAFCo as part of the 2017 Eel River-Lost Coast Regional Fire Services Municipal Service Review, which updated each agency's sphere of influence to align with its mapped out-of-district goodwill response area; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Government Code §§ 56885.5, 56886, and 57330, LAFCo may impose terms and conditions on an annexation, including requiring approval of a new or extended special tax, and any territory annexed to the District would, upon the effective date of annexation, become subject to all previously authorized taxes of the District; and

WHEREAS, the District intends that annexation shall be conditioned upon voter approval of the District's special tax as established in Ordinance No. 2026-1, and that the annexation shall not become effective unless and until such tax is approved by two-thirds of District voters.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Ferndale Fire Protection District as follows:

- 1. Resolution of Application.** The Board hereby initiates proceedings and submits a Resolution of Application to the Humboldt Local Agency Formation Commission requesting annexation of the territory shown in Exhibit A, pursuant to Government Code § 56654.
- 2. Reasons for the Proposal.** The reasons for the proposed annexation are as follows:
 - a. To formalize fire protection and emergency response services long provided to residents in the goodwill response area;
 - b. To ensure equitable and sustainable funding for services provided; and
 - c. To align jurisdictional boundaries with actual service responsibilities for the benefit of neighboring fire service providers, land use authorities, and other service providers.
- 3. Requested Terms and Conditions.** The District requests that LAFCo condition annexation upon voter approval of the District's special tax as established in Ordinance No. 2026-1. If the special tax is not approved, the annexation shall not become effective.
- 4. Filing.** The District Clerk/Secretary is authorized and directed to submit this Resolution of Application, all required LAFCo forms, maps, and supporting documentation to LAFCo.
- 5. Environmental Compliance.** The proposed sphere of influence amendment and annexation are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) (Common Sense Exemption). It can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility the proposed actions will have a significant effect on the environment because the annexation would serve to align the

District's jurisdictional boundary with the area it already serves on a longstanding goodwill basis. The proposal does not authorize or propose any new development, nor does it change the type, frequency, or manner in which existing fire protection and emergency response services are provided. Therefore, the annexation qualifies for the common-sense exemption under CEQA.

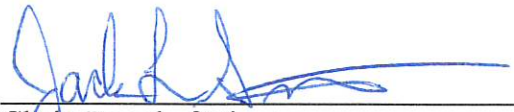
PASSED AND ADOPTED this 12th day of January, 2026.

AYES: 8

NOES: 0

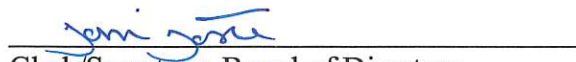
ABSTAIN: 0

ABSENT: 0



Chair, Board of Directors
Ferndale Fire Protection District

ATTEST:


Clerk/Secretary, Board of Directors
Ferndale Fire Protection District