

HUMBOLDT LAFCO NOTICE OF HEARINGS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on Wednesday, July 20, 2022, at 9:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, the Humboldt Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) will hold public hearings on the items listed below. The Commission will conduct the hearings entirely by teleconference. No physical location for the meeting will be available. Anyone who wishes to participate in the meeting should consult the meeting agenda for the call-in telephone number and zoom link (also provided below). The agenda will be posted on the Commission's website www.humboldtlafo.org at least 72 hours before the scheduled start time of the meeting.

Join Teleconference Meeting *Electronically* (computer, tablet or smartphone):

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88156300198?pwd=ak0vNUJlVkkRRQmh5azVrRzJuTXR3QT09>

Join Teleconference Meeting by *Telephone*: (669) 900-6833

Meeting ID: 881 5630 0198

Meeting Passcode: 448465

1. PROPOSED FORMATION OF THE SALMON CREEK FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

The Commission will consider approving the formation of a Fire Protection District for the purpose of providing fire protection and emergency response services to the Salmon Creek area. The affected territory is the same area currently served by the Salmon Creek Volunteer Fire Company. To access an online interactive webmap of the district boundaries please visit: <https://bit.ly/3Ootfi>

Proceedings for this district formation were initiated by petition of registered voters within the proposed district boundaries. The reasons for the proposal are to support the ongoing operations of the Salmon Creek Volunteer Fire Department (SCVFD), 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 an elected three-member Board of Directors, independent of the County.

The continued operation of the proposed Salmon Creek FPD would 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 Assessor Parcel per year. Landowners with multiple contiguous 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. Beginning on January 1, of the first year after formation, the District Board may increase the maximum tax rate at a duly noticed public hearing by applying the increase, if any, in the Consumer Price Index that has occurred since January of the prior year, up to a maximum of five percent. The approval of the district formation would be subject to majority voter approval and contingent on special tax approval by 2/3^{rds} votes cast at a special or general election by voters within the proposed district boundaries. For more information about the proposed formation, please visit:

<https://humboldtlafo.org/proposed-formation-of-the-salmon-creek-fire-protection-district/>

2. PROPOSED GARBERVILLE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT ANNEXATION

The Commission will consider approving an annexation by the Garberville Fire Protection District (GFPD) consisting of approximately 36,000 acres of GFPD's existing out-of-district good-will response area that includes the Benbow, Garberville Airport/Kimtu Meadows, Bear Canyon, Alderpoint Road, and South U.S. 101/Richardson Grove areas and the Sprowel Creek Volunteer Fire Response Area. To access an online interactive webmap of the proposed annexation area please visit: <https://arcgis/G9W0C>

Proceedings for this annexation were initiated by resolution of the GFPD Board of Directors. The reason for the proposal is to make possible a proactive, sustainable solution for future fire and emergency service needs by creating a regional district, with an improved economy of scale and associated benefits. The proposed annexation would officially merge operations with the Sprowel Creek Volunteer Fire Company, making Sprowel Creek a new battalion of the GFPD. In addition, the new revenue generated by this annexation would begin the process of establishing a new battalion in the Benbow area. Initially this would mean firefighters would be recruited and trained from the Benbow area, and a fire engine may be strategically placed at a residence or other location to allow a quicker response to Benbow incidents. The ultimate goal will be to construct a fire station in Benbow after sufficient revenue is accumulated, an appropriate site is selected, and environmental review completed.

The annexation would also include: (1) a property tax exchange agreement with Humboldt County for the annexation area, whereby the County would shift property tax base and growth generally equivalent with the current GFPD property tax allocation; and (2) a voter-approved special tax that would generate approximately \$150,000 per year and would be apportioned to property based on the use of property in the following manner: vacant property of any type would pay \$25 per Assessor parcel per year; a single family home within a hydranted area would pay \$100 per parcel per year; a home not served by hydrants would require a greater response, including water tenders, would pay \$150 per parcel per year; multiple family dwellings would pay between \$200 and \$450 per parcel per year depending upon the number of housing units; most commercial properties would pay \$300 per parcel per year and hotels and motels would pay between \$300 and \$750 per parcel per year based on the number of rooms. Beginning on January 1, of the first year after annexation, the District Board may increase the maximum tax rate by applying the increase, if any, in the Consumer Price Index that has occurred since January of the prior year, up to a maximum of five percent. Should annexation be approved by LAFCo, the special tax must be approved by 2/3rds votes cast at a special or general election that includes registered voters within the existing district and proposed annexation area. For more information about the proposed annexation, please visit: <https://humboldtlafo.org/proposed-garberville-fire-protection-district-annexation/>

THE COMMISSION HEREBY GIVES NOTICE THAT, unless written opposition to the above referenced proposals are received from landowners or registered voters within the affected territories before the conclusion of the Commission's hearings on the proposals, the Commission intends to waive protest proceedings, as authorized by, and in compliance with, California Government Code Section 56663.

At said hearings, the Commission will consider all oral and written testimony of any interested persons or affected agencies. Pursuant to state law, only issues raised at the public hearing described in this

notice or in written correspondence delivered to the Commission at or prior to the public hearing may be raised in any legal challenge to Commission actions.

Written comments must be received by noon the day prior to the meeting in order to be distributed to Commissioners. Please direct comments, questions, and requests to review documents to Humboldt LAFCo, 1125 16th Street, Suite 202, Arcata, CA 95521. Phone: (707) 445-7508. E-mail: colettem@humboldtlafo.org (*preferred*).