



NOTICE OF PROTEST HEARING
ANNEXATION OF GOODWILL RESPONSE AREAS
TO THE KNEELAND FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Executive Officer of the Humboldt Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, October 16, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at the Kneeland Fire House, 6201 Greenwood Heights Drive in Kneeland, CA.** The hearing will be conducted by the Commission's Executive Officer who has been delegated authority to conduct this hearing.

Purpose of the Hearing: The protest hearing provides landowners and registered voters within the annexation area an opportunity to submit written protests against the Commission's approval of the annexation. Written protests may be filed at any time prior to the close of the hearing.

Annexation Background: The Kneeland Fire Protection District (FPD) initiated annexation of approximately 61,486 acres (503 parcels) within the District's goodwill response area. The annexation would formalize Kneeland FPD's service responsibilities, establish reliable funding, and clarify service boundaries with adjacent agencies.

On May 21, 2025, the Commission approved the annexation (Resolution No. 25-03), extending Kneeland FPD's voter-approved special tax (Measure D) to all annexed parcels. Revenues would be collected on the annual property tax bill and used exclusively for local fire protection and emergency services. A protest hearing was first held June 24, 2025, but continued due to a reconsideration request filed with the Commission.

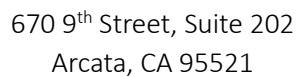
Reconsideration Request: Within 30 days of approval, Humboldt Redwood Company (HRC) requested reconsideration, objecting to the inclusion of 17 of its parcels. LAFCo held three reconsideration hearings on August 20, September 3, and September 17, 2025. The primary issue concerned Health and Safety Code §13811, which prohibits inclusion of "commercial forest lands which are timbered lands" within fire protection districts located in State Responsibility Areas (SRAs). Although staff noted the statute lacks clear definition—and demonstrated that these timberlands generate structural fire (1 parcel), emergency medical, and rescue demands, with demonstrable benefit to services and facilities provided by Kneeland FPD—the Commission ultimately determined that including HRC's parcels would create significant legal risk.

Modified Annexation: On September 17, 2025, the Commission approved the reconsideration request (Resolution No. 25-06), removing HRC's 17 parcels. The modified annexation boundary is shown on the enclosed map. More information is available at: <https://humboldtlafo.org/kneeland-fpd-goodwill-annexation/>

How to file a Protest: To be considered valid, a protest must be written, signed, and dated by either a landowner (include Assessor's Parcel Number), a registered voter (use name/address as shown on affidavit of registration), or both. Protests must be received before the close of the October 16, 2025 hearing. Forms are available at the LAFCo office or online at www.humboldtlafo.org, though use of the form is not required. Protests may be hand-delivered at the hearing, mailed to Humboldt LAFCo (670 9th Street, Suite 202, Arcata, CA 95521), or emailed to the Executive Officer at colette@humboldtlafo.org.

How Protests will be Evaluated: Under State law, an election would be called if 25-50% of registered voters protest or 25% or more of landowners protest. The 25% threshold for landowner protest refers to both the number of owners and the assessed value of land. Furthermore, the annexation would be terminated if 50% or more of registered voters protest. The annexation will be confirmed and ordered if the above thresholds are not reached.

Questions may be directed to the LAFCo office at (707) 445-7508 or colette@humboldtlafo.org (preferred).



City, State, Zip

