



Public Comment for LAFCO Meeting of March 17, 2020

1 message

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To: "krystleh@humboldtlafo.org" <krystleh@humboldtlafo.org>

Statement of General Concern:

The northern boundary of the Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District terminates in McKinleyville.

Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District is planning on extending a pipeline 11 miles beyond its boundary to the Trinidad Rancheria, bypassing two existing water districts. These districts are operated by the City of Trinidad and by the Westhaven Community Water District.

Both of these agencies have been approached by Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District asking if they would like to be part of the new pipeline. Both refused, saying that they are concerned about unwanted residential growth, which would surely occur if this pipeline were to be established.

There are no other public water sources between McKinleyville and Trinidad.

According to a citizen's guide to LAFCO published by the State Senate:

"LAFCOs are the Legislature's watchdog over the boundaries of cities and special districts....."

"...Cities and special districts scrambled to annex areas in order to capture revenues or to preclude other agencies from annexing area. Some of the worst examples of this are known as '**cherry stems**'. These were formed when a city sought to **single out and annex a particular non-contiguous area**. The annexation boundaries included a long portion of road (the "stem") to bring the desired site (the "cherry") into contiguity with the city's boundaries."

"As these types of annexations occurred, the boundaries became increasingly irregular, creating an abundance of parallel infrastructure lines and isolated service areas. This resulted in expensive and inefficient service provision. "

Humboldt Bay's motivation is to increase its customer base for water sales. It seems to have little or no concern for the desires of residents of Westhaven and Trinidad to be left alone, and not to be opened up to a growth-inducing pipeline.

The Trinidad Rancheria currently gets enough water from the City of Trinidad to serve its residential customers and its existing casino. However, the Rancheria has strong development

plans, which include not only a 5-story hotel but a shopping center and RV park. It does not have enough water for these future developments.

The Trinidad Rancheria has also started working with Caltrans to re-do the section of Highway 101 that connects it with Westhaven, which would result in massive eminent domain losses for that community.

By asking an agency 11 miles away, separated by two other communities. to provide water for future development is leapfrogging, and extending a "cherry stem" ---- exactly the type of "cherry stem" development that LAFCO by law is supposed to prevent.

Please do your job as a responsible agency.

Elaine Weinreb

Westhaven Resident