

**DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION**

17501 N. Hwy 101
Willits, CA 95490
(707) 459-7414
Website: www.fire.ca.gov



July 8, 2021

Uma Hinman, Executive Officer
Mendocino Local Agency Formation Commission
200 South School Street
Ukiah, CA 95482

Subject: UVFD Annexation of City of Ukiah Incorporated Area for Fire Service
Project No. A-2021-02

Ms. Hinman,

Please find the attached letter from the CAL FIRE Mendocino Unit to Michelle Irace at the Ukiah Department of Community development regarding this project. Please consider this letter as the CAL FIRE Mendocino Unit's official comment regarding this project.

If you have any question regarding these comments, please feel free to contact me at (707) 459-7423, or at chris.vallerga@fire.ca.gov.

Best regards,


Chris A. Vallerga
Fire Captain/ Pre-Fire Planning
Mendocino Unit

Attachments: May 21, 2021 Letter to Michelle Irace, Ukiah Community Development
Department



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May 21, 2021

Michelle Irace, Planning Manager
Department of Community Development
300 Seminary Avenue
Ukiah, CA 95482

Subject: Western Hills Project

Ms. Irace,

This letter is a follow-up of the meeting on May 18th, 2021 with respect to the City of Ukiah's Western Hills Annexation Project.

The scope of the project entails the City of Ukiah to acquire 707 acres of land that is currently in the County of Mendocino's jurisdiction. Additionally, there is a possibility of future subdivision of parcels, as well as potential construction of residential units once the acquisition and annexation are complete.

This acquisition and eventual annexation of land into the City of Ukiah will have two significant effects from the Unit's perspective:

First, the land being acquired and annexed is currently within the State Responsibility Area. Under Public Resources Code Section 4125(a), CAL FIRE has the financial responsibility of preventing and suppressing fires on State Responsibility Area land. Under the proposed annexation, this land will be removed from the State Responsibility Area and will come under the purview of the City of Ukiah.


Public Resources Code Section 4127(b) requires that land inside an incorporated city be designated as being within the Local Responsibility Area. As this project's intent is to annex County land into the City, it will be then reclassified as being within the Local Responsibility Area. Therefore, the City of Ukiah will be financially responsible for the prevention and suppression of fires that occur on the acquired land once the annexation is complete as required in Public Resources Code Section 4125(a).

The second significant issue deals with new construction in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones in the Local Responsibility Area. Public Resources Code Section 4290, as amended by Assembly Bill 1823, requires lands classified and designated as Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones in the Local Responsibility Area to comply with the requirements of the State Fire Safe Regulations beginning July 1st, 2021. In addition, Public Resources Code Section 4290 requires the local jurisdiction, not CAL FIRE, to implement and enforce the State Fire Safe Regulations on these lands.

As outlined in Public Resources Code Sections 4202 and 4203, the land involved with this annexation proposal is currently classified by the Director of the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection as being within a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone. Once annexed into the city, it will become the responsibility of the City of Ukiah to review, inspect and enforce the State Fire Safe Regulations on this land, as well as any other land that is classified as being within a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone within the Local Responsibility Area within the city's boundaries.

To summarize, once annexed into the City of Ukiah, the parcels in question will be transferred out of the State Responsibility Area into the Local Responsibility Area. Once in the Local Responsibility Area, the City of Ukiah will be financially responsible for fire prevention and fire protection efforts on this land, as well as ensuring that any future improvements conform to the State Fire Safe Regulations.

If there are any questions regarding this issue, please feel free to contact me at (707) 459-7423, or by email at chris.vallerga@fire.ca.gov.



Chris A. Vallerga
Fire Captain/ Pre-Fire Planning
Mendocino Unit

Cc: MEU PRC 4290 File
Maya Simerson, Project Administrator, City of Ukiah
Doug Hutchison, Fire Chief, Ukiah Valley Fire District
Mendocino County Planning and Building Department

Reference: Public Resources Code Sections 4125-4127, "Responsibility for Fire Protection"
Public Resources Code Sections 4202-4204, "Fire Hazard Severity Zones"
Public Resources Code Section 4290, "Fire Safety Standards for State Responsibility Area Lands"
California Government Code Section 51177(i), "Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones"
Title 14 California Code of Regulations, Division 1.5, Chapter 7, Sub-chapter 2, Article 2, "State Fire Safe Regulations"

MENDOCINO

Local Agency Formation Commission

Ukiah Valley Conference Center | 200 South School Street | Ukiah, California 95482
Telephone: (707) 463-4470 | E-mail: eo@mendolafco.org | Web: <http://mendolafco.org>

APPLICATION REFERRAL Request for Agency Comments



DATE: July 2, 2021
PROJECT: UVFD annexation of City of Ukiah incorporated area for fire services
FILE NO.: A-2021-02
FROM: Uma Hinman, Executive Officer
TO: Distribution List below

<input type="checkbox"/> County Agricultural Commissioner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Airport Land Use Commission
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County Assessor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CAL FIRE – Mendocino Unit
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County Auditor-Controller	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> California Highway Patrol, Ukiah Office
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County Chief Executive Officer	<input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans, District 1
<input type="checkbox"/> County Environmental Health	<input type="checkbox"/> Coastal Commission
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County GIS Division	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mendocino Council of Governments
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County Planning & Building Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Mendocino County Farm Bureau
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County Public Works	<input type="checkbox"/> Mendocino Transit Authority
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County Sheriff's Office	<input type="checkbox"/> Natural Resources Conservation Service
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County Surveyor's Office	<input type="checkbox"/> North Coast RWQCB
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County Board of Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Resource Conservation District
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ukiah Unified School District Supt.	<input type="checkbox"/> State Department of Fish & Wildlife
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coastal Valleys EMS Agency	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pinoleville Pomo Nation

Short Title: UVFD Fire Services Annexation and Fire District Sphere Amendment

Proposal: Ukiah Valley Fire District (UVFD) Resolution of Application No. 2021-04, and City of Ukiah Resolution of Support No. 2021-21, to annex incorporated territory of the City of Ukiah for fire services and to amend the UVFD Sphere of Influence to include the proposed annexation area, and associated Notice of Exemption recorded June 8, 2021 (Mendocino County Official Records 2021-E0033) pursuant to PRC §21065 and Title 14 CCR §15378(a), 15061(b)(3), 15261, 15301, and 15320, with no evidence presented of unusual circumstances (Title 14 CCR §15300.2(c)).

Location: City of Ukiah City Limits (map attached)

Attached for your technical review and comment is information for the above referenced project. Please visit our website for additional details (<https://www.mendolafco.org/current-application-proposals>).

Please submit your project-related comments, along with any proposed requirements or conditions of approval, no later than **5:00 PM on Friday, July 23, 2021**. If a response is not received by the deadline, we will assume you have no comments, unless other arrangements have been made.

Comments may be e-mailed to eo@mendolafco.org or mailed or hand delivered to Mendocino LAFCo, 200 South School Street, Ukiah, CA 95482. Please contact me at (707) 463-4470 if you have questions or need additional information.