



**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Wednesday, September 22, 2004**

Approved at 11/3/04 meeting

Permit and Resource Management Department Hearing Room  
2550 Ventura Avenue  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403  
2:00 P.M.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in a LAFCO meeting, please contact the LAFCO Clerk at 707.565.2577. Notification at least 48 hours prior to the meeting will assist LAFCO staff in assuring that reasonable accommodations are made to provide accessibility to the meeting.

**COMMISSIONERS**

Present H. E. Boyett, Chair  
Absent Valerie Brown  
Present Tim Smith  
Present Debora Fudge  
Present Lisa Schaffner  
Absent Raymond Brunton  
Absent William Massey

**ALTERNATE COMMISSIONERS**

Present Bob Jabs  
Absent Jean A. Kapolchok  
Present Paul Kelley  
Present Pamela Torliatt

**STAFF**

Absent Steven Sharpe, Executive Officer  
Present Carole Cooper, Assistant Executive Officer  
Present David Hurst, Legal Counsel  
Absent Sally McGough, Legal Counsel  
Present Nora Guy, Clerk

To speak on an item under discussion by the Local Agency Formation Commission on this agenda, you may do so upon receiving recognition from the Chair. Please step up to the rostrum, located in the center of the room, and sign in. State your name, for the record, before making your presentation. All hearings are taped. Time limitations on public testimony may be imposed at the discretion of the Chair.

- 1. **CALL TO ORDER BY THE CHAIR:** Chairman Boyett called the meeting to order at 2pm
- 2. **GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:** None
- 3. **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

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**4. PUBLIC HEARING**

- 4.1 File 04-12: Amendment No. 1 to Coast Life Support District Sphere of Influence, Annexation No. 1 to the Coast Life Support District Involving Annexation of All Territory Within the Fort Ross School District and Municipal Service Review

**Applicant:** Coast Life Support District

**Env. Document:** Negative Declaration

**Proposal:** Request for amendment to Coast Life Support District sphere of influence and annexation to the District of an inhabited 42,000 +/- acres of all territory within the Fort Ross School District

**Location:** North Sonoma County Coast, inclusive of Fort Ross School District

Carole Cooper gave the staff report and recommended that the Commission approve the District's request to amend its sphere of influence and annex all territory within the Fort Ross School District. She noted that currently the District provides service in much of the Fort Ross District but does not receive benefits of the special tax that is levied on parcels within the Coast Life Support District. Under its enabling legislation, the District board of directors can exempt from the levy certain areas where service would not be provided. Recent comments and inquiries from some property owners in the affected territory have indicated that an ambulance from Guerneville (from Russian River Fire Protection District) is closer to some areas.

Boundaries of the annexation area were set along the Fort Ross School District boundaries for greater ease of mapping and cost factors. Completion of the annexation before December 1 would be necessary for the tax levy to be implemented as of July 2005. Carole noted that staff had sent the draft municipal service review to affected agencies, including emergency services agencies; however, no comments had been received.

Nick Scanlon-Hill, District administrator, provided handouts and used slides to illustrate proposed District boundaries, including areas that would likely continue to be served by Guerneville and that would be considered tax-exempt. Mr. Scanlon-Hill indicated that the District board wanted to determine tax-exempt service areas after consultations with and input from the community and a determination of which provider

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could respond more quickly. He noted that the cost of developing a map that did not follow school district boundaries had been estimated at up to \$40,000. Mr. Scanlon-Hill also mentioned that the District receives 400 calls per year, with fewer than 20-25 coming from the area that would be serviced by Guerneville ambulance.

Mr. Scanlon-Hill explained that the District’s projected revenue from the special tax would be \$41,000 for the entire annexation area and \$36,000 if the area served by the Guerneville ambulance were to be excluded from the levy. He noted that the District already has a resolution in place, regarding tax-exempt areas. David Hurst, legal counsel, stated that no election is required in this case because the taxes collected by the District are an existing special tax.

Commissioner Smith expressed surprise that no comments on the municipal service review or proposal had been received from EMS agencies.

Chairman Boyett opened the public hearing.

Richard Smart, 2785 Nutwood Court, Stewarts Point, asked about legal technicalities regarding who may vote, inside or outside of the annexation area, and notice of and opportunities for protest.

David Hurst and Carole Cooper indicated that, if the Commission approved the proposal, a protest proceeding, required by statute, would be conducted on November 3. LAFCO would send a notice of protest hearing by October 13, accompanied by a protest form, for the convenience of those who wish to protest. For protests to count, they must be written, provide identifying information, and be received by the Commission by the close of the public hearing on November 3. If at least 25% of property owners or registered voters in the annexation area protest, the proposal would go to an election on its merits.

Mr. Smart noted that, out of 13 calls for service in the area last year, 12 were for tourists; he asked the cost of the proposed tax. Carole Cooper replied that the special tax for a parcel of fewer than five acres would be \$84; Mr. Scanlon-Hill added that a 20-acre parcel would be assessed \$100.

Ward Anderson, 34775 Cruz Ranch Road, Fort Ross area, spoke as the past administrator and former fiscal officer of the District. Having served on the Fort Ross School District board, he noted that the school is in the center of Coast Life Support District. He expressed concern that the District would split, “driving a wedge” between the community. He also further explained the assessment rates.

**Action: Approved unanimously as recommended by staff.**  
Fudge: aye Schaffner: aye Jabs: aye Brunton: abs Kelley: aye Smith: aye Boyett: aye  
Ayes: 6 Noes: 0 Absent/Abstain: 1

5. **ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 2:45pm.