



**DEL NORTE LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION**  
670 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 202  
Arcata, California 95521  
TEL (707) 825-9301 FAX (707)825-9181  
eo@delnortelafco.org

### **AGENDA ITEM 4.C.**

**MEETING DATE:** May 18, 2026  
**TO:** Del Norte Local Agency Formation Commission  
**FROM:** George Williamson AICP, Executive Officer  
**SUBJECT:** Del Norte Resource Conservation District Proposed Annexation of Territory  
*The Commission will consider adopting Resolution 26-06, approving the proposed annexation of territory to the Del Norte Resource Conservation District.*

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### **BACKGROUND**

LAFCOs are responsible under the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 to regulate the formation and development of local governmental agencies and their municipal services. This includes approving or disapproving proposed changes of organization, such as district annexations, consistent with adopted policies and procedures pursuant to California Government Code (G.C.) Section 56375. LAFCOs are authorized with broad discretion in amending and conditioning changes of organization as long as they do not directly regulate land use, property development, or subdivision requirements.

Proceedings for this annexation were initiated by resolution of application adopted by the Del Norte Resource Conservation District (“DNRCD” or “District”). The District requests that its jurisdictional boundary be expanded to provide resource conservation services to all parcels in the County not already located within its boundary and within their established Sphere of Influence (SOI). The identified reason for application is to allow the DNRCD to support additional private and public landowners in the County by completing projects that protect, enhance, nurture, and conserve natural resources.

DNRCD, in its application, has determined that the proposed annexation is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Upon consideration of the proposed annexation, LAFCO will make an independent conclusion regarding the applicability of any CEQA exemptions.

### **DISCUSSION**

#### Reasons for Proposal

The Del Norte Resource Conservation District initiated this annexation by resolution of application (DNRCD Resolution 25-01; Attachment B). The purpose of the proposal is to facilitate and provide natural resources conservation services across the entire area inclusive of Del Norte County. The District currently provides services related to wildfire resilience, water quality, stream restoration and enhancement, agricultural lands restoration, and fish and wildlife adaptive management within its existing jurisdictional boundary and, in some cases,



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outside its boundary to the rest of the County. The annexation would allow for the District's boundary to more accurately reflect its current service provision and allow for the District to continue extending these services to the entire County.

#### Description of Annexation Area

The proposed annexation encompasses 15,807 parcels, totaling approximately 985 square miles located adjacent to the DNRCD boundary and within its adopted SOI. The parcels are situated across the entire County including incorporated (City of Crescent City) and unincorporated lands such as Smith River, Fort Dick, Gasquet, Hiouchi, and Klamath (Attachment A).

There is no anticipated development because of this annexation. Undeveloped areas in the County will not become developed as a direct result of the annexation. The approximate population of the annexation area is estimated to be 27,743 persons. There are 15,603 registered voters in the proposed annexation area.

There are no proposed land use or zoning changes. Agricultural or open-space lands will be positively impacted from the annexation and have no proposed change of use or designation as part of this annexation.

#### Service Provision

To support the proposed annexation, DNRCD prepared a Plan for Services (Attachment C) that was included with its application. At the request of LAFCo staff, the District expanded upon their Plan for Services (Attachment D). The Plan outlines the anticipated level of service to be provided and how the District would extend resource conservation services to the annexation area. It describes current projects within its jurisdictional boundary and those provided to the rest of the County, potential partnerships in other areas of the County, and funding mechanisms for providing these services.

Under Government Code §56653, LAFCo must consider whether a proposal can reasonably provide services within the affected territory and describe a description of services; the level and range of services; when those services can feasibly be extended; what conditions would be imposed upon the affected territory; and how those services will be financed. The attached Plan for Services (Attachment D) outlines these considerations.

#### **ANALYSIS**

The analysis of the proposal is organized into two sections. The first section considers the proposal relative to the factors mandated for review by the State Legislature anytime LAFCOs review boundary changes. The second section considers issues required by other applicable State statutes in processing boundary changes, such as environmental compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act.

#### Required Factors for Review

Government Code §56668 requires the Commission to consider 17 specific factors anytime it reviews proposals for a change of organization or reorganization involving special districts. The majority of the prescribed factors focus on the impacts of the proposed boundary changes on the service and financial capacities of the affected agencies. No single factor is determinative.



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The purpose in considering these factors is to help inform the Commission in its decision-making process.

A summary of key statements and conclusions generated in the review of the mandated factors for the proposal follows, with a complete analysis provided in Attachment E.

- **Population, Land Use, and Growth** - The annexation area covers a majority (approximately 985 square miles) of Del Norte County including incorporated (City of Crescent City) lands and unincorporated lands such as Smith River, Fort Dick, Gasquet, Hiouchi, and Klamath. No land use or zoning changes are proposed. There is an estimated population of 27,743 persons in the area. No significant growth is anticipated as a result of the annexation.
- **Need for Services and Alternatives** - The proposed annexation area requires the extension of resource conservation services. There are no other providers nearby that could serve the area. An alternative to deny the annexation and limit the District's service provision to within its jurisdictional boundary was considered but determined to be unfounded. Many other RCDs in northern California span all, or most of, the county in which they're located.
- **Effects on Adjacent Areas** - The proposed annexation would expand the District boundaries within its adopted SOI. The extension of conservation services would provide technical and financial assistance to landowners and residents across the County related to habitat restoration, natural resource conservation, and environmental health projects. The extension of conservation services could result in a healthier and more sustainable environment which could improve the value of the County, its tourism opportunities, and marketability of developed residences.
- **Conformity with LAFCo Policies and Open Space** - Positive impacts on agricultural and open-space lands are anticipated. The proposed annexation is not expected to induce the conversion of open space lands to uses other than open space uses. No urban development is proposed or anticipated. The proposal conforms with LAFCO policies and Government Code Section 56377 regarding development and preservation of open-space lands.
- **Agricultural Lands** - Lands within the County that have been designated for agricultural lands or are currently in active agricultural production will remain as agricultural lands. The proposed annexation makes no proposed change to these lands' designations and uses.
- **Boundaries** - The existing District boundary is not contiguous. The proposed annexation area is proposed to include all lands not already within the District's boundary. Thus, the annexation creates a logical, contiguous boundary that is coterminous with that of the County.
- **Regional Transportation** - The proposed annexation does not involve roadway construction or transportation system management. There is no change to any transportation services or systems as a result of the proposed annexation. The proposal



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does not conflict with any objectives in the Del Norte Local Transportation Commission's Regional Transportation Plan.

- **General Plan Consistency** - The annexation area is governed by the Del Norte County General Plan, City of Crescent City General Plan, Crescent City Harbor Land Use Plan, County zoning regulations, and all other applicable County and City plans. The proposed annexation supports orderly and efficient implementation of adopted land use plans.
- **Sphere of Influence** - The annexation area is located entirely within DNRCD's adopted SOI. LAFCo approved DNRCD's most recent comprehensive SOI Update on November 24, 2025.
- **Agency Comments** - Upon receipt of the annexation application, LAFCO staff circulated a Notice of Filing to affected local agencies and departments for review and comment. A comment was received from Big Rock Community Services District regarding the timeframe for providing comments; staff clarified the comment submittal process and no further comments have been received by them. Two other responses were received requesting a copy of the District's application materials - one from the City of Crescent City and one from the Elk Valley Rancheria.
- **Ability to Provide Services** - DNRCD has prepared a Plan for Services outlining its plan to provide resource conservation services in the annexation area, noting that many services are already provided outside of its boundary. The Del Norte County Auditor-Controller's office stated that the estimated property tax revenue subject to a negotiated exchange is zero. Based on information provided, the proposed annexation will not impair DNRCD's ability to provide adequate services.
- **Water Supply** - There is no increased demand on water supplies as a result of the proposed annexation as determined by Government Code §65352.5. The provision of services will not require additional water supplies; existing water supply is adequate to meet projected needs.
- **Housing** - The annexation has no impact on the County's ability to meet its Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) as the annexation area. No new residential units are proposed.
- **Landowner and Voter Information** - The proposed annexation does not have 100 percent landowner consent. LAFCo published notice of the May 18, 2026, public hearing in the Del Norte Triplicate via a standard public notice and a display advertisement in accordance with Government Code §56157(h). To date, no comments have been received from surrounding landowners, voters, or residents.
- **Land Use Designations** - Land uses of the parcels within the annexation area are subject to the Del Norte County General Plan. There is no change to the land use designations as part of the annexation.
- **Environmental Justice** - The County has a Median Household Income of \$67,058, which is considered disadvantaged. LAFCo policy is to consider and address water, sewer, and fire service deficiencies in DUCs. The proposed annexation would not address any water, sewer, and/or fire service deficiencies in the disadvantaged County or communities, but



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no marginalized populations or otherwise disadvantaged communities will be adversely affected by the proposal.

- Interest of Landowners and Inhabitants - The proposed annexation supports coordinated service delivery and long-term reliability in a manner that benefits both current and any future inhabitants.

### Other Considerations

#### *Conducting Authority Proceedings*

Pursuant to Government Code §56157(h), LAFCo has published a display advertisement of the Notice of Public Hearing regarding the May 18, public hearing. Unless LAFCo receives written opposition from landowners or registered voters within the affected territory before the conclusion of the hearing, the Commission intends to waive protest proceedings as authorized by, and in compliance with, Government Code §56663.

#### *Environmental Review*

DNRCD, in its application, has determined that the proposed annexation is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). LAFCo staff have also determined the proposed annexation is covered by the common sense exemption (CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)3) where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment. It is also categorically exempt under the Class 20 Exemption pursuant to Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, which provides a categorical exemption for changes in organization of local agencies that do not change the geographical area in which previously existing powers are exercised.

No new development, changes in use, expansion of existing uses, or new or enhanced provision of public services are proposed or anticipated post-annexation. The proposed annexation is not anticipated to result in construction or other physical alteration of the environment because the existing land uses and public services are proposed to remain the same. There is no evidence presented of unusual circumstances that might cause a significant effect on the environment (Title 14 CCR § 15300.2(c)).

### **RECOMMENDATION**

The proposed Countywide Annexation to the Del Norte Resource Conservation District appears appropriate relative to the factors required by statute for consideration. The annexation promotes orderly growth, efficient service delivery, and clear service responsibility and is consistent with LAFCO law and adopted local plans. It is recommended the following conditions of approval be applied with delegation to the Executive Officer to determine when the requested actions have been sufficiently satisfied before proceeding with a recordation.

- a) Completion of the 30-day reconsideration period provided under Government Code §56895.
- b) Completion of conducting authority proceedings by Executive Officer (unless waived in accordance with Government Code §56663).
- c) Submittal of a final map of the affected territory conforming to the requirements of the State Board of Equalization.



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- d) Payment of any outstanding fees as identified in the Commission's adopted fee schedule.
- e) Completion of the development of a website no later than one year after the effective date of the annexation.
- f) Upon the effective date of the annexation, all parcels within the affected territory shall be subject to all applicable charges, fees, rates, rules, regulations, and ordinances lawfully enacted by the District for the provision of resource conservation services.

### **Commission Options**

Staff has identified three options for Commission consideration with respect to the proposal. These options are summarized below.

#### Alternative Action One (Recommended):

Find the proposed annexation exempt from CEQA as noted above and adopt the draft resolution identified as Attachment F, approving the proposed annexation subject to the conditions outlined in this report.

#### Alternative Action Two:

Continue consideration of the item to the next regular meeting and provide direction to staff for additional information as needed.

#### Alternative Action Three:

Deny the proposal which would statutorily prohibit the initiation of a similar proposal for one year unless a request for reconsideration is filed and approved within 30 days of Commission action.

### **Procedures for Consideration**

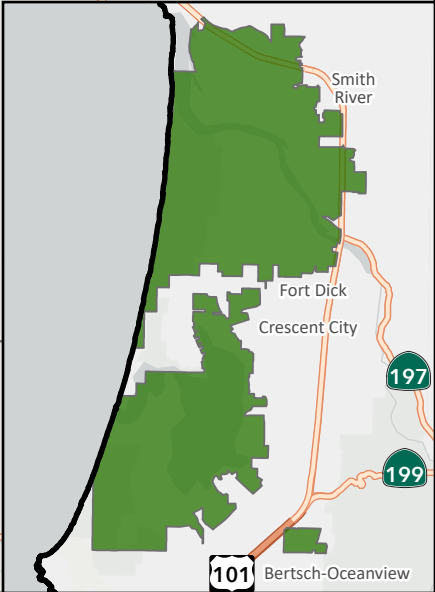
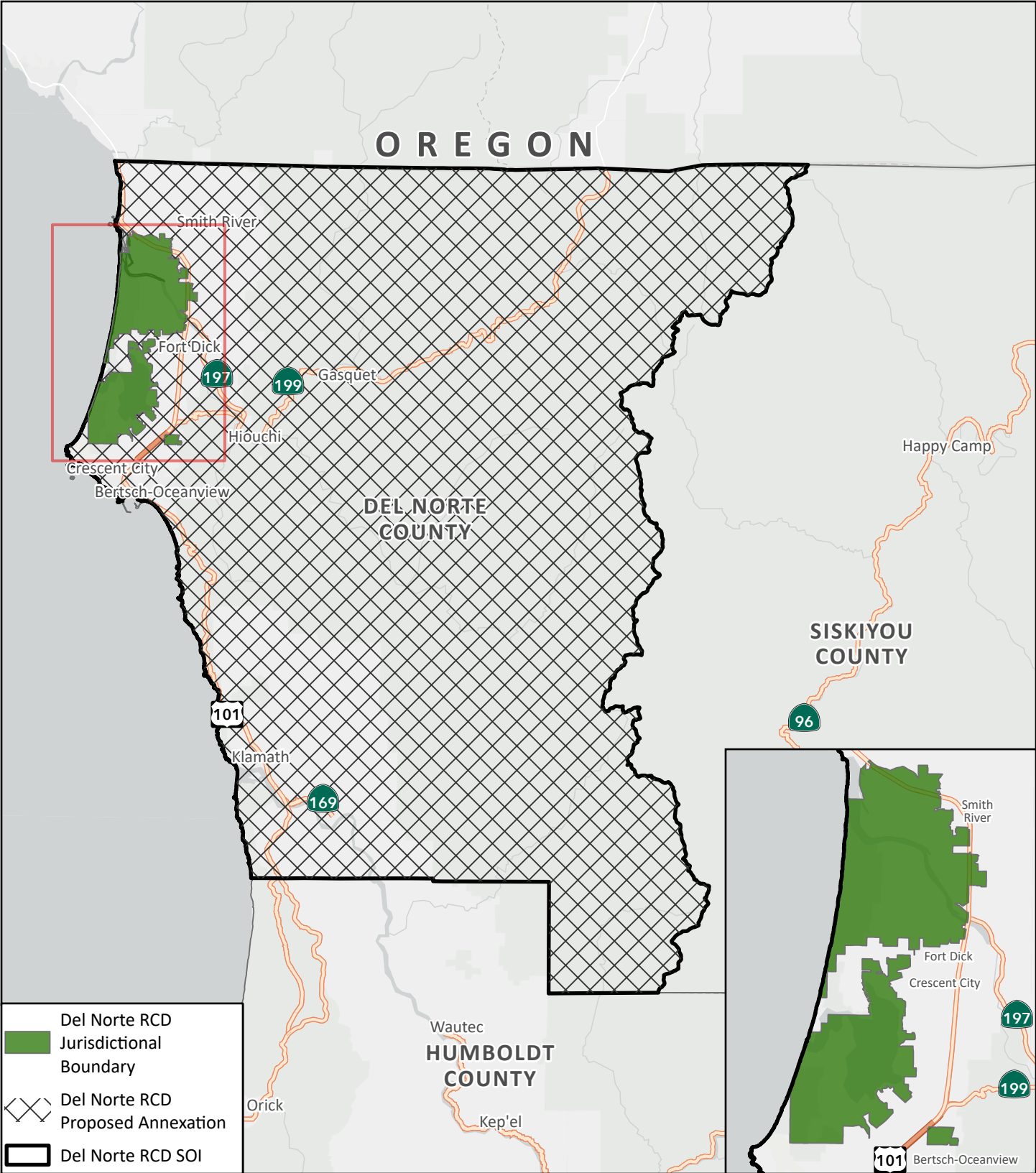
This item has been agendaized for consideration as part of a noticed public hearing. The following procedures are recommended with respect to the Commission's consideration of this item:

- A. Receive verbal report from staff;
- B. Open the public hearing and invite testimony; and
- C. Discuss item and - if appropriate - close the hearing and consider action on recommendation:

*"I move to adopt Resolution No. 2026-06, finding the proposed annexation categorically exempt from CEQA and approving the Del Norte Resource Conservation District Countywide Annexation, subject to conditions as identified in the resolution."*

### **ATTACHMENTS**

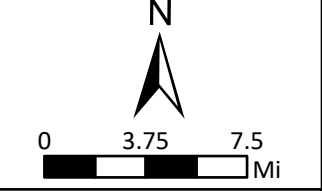
- Attachment A: DNRCD Proposed Annexation Area Map
- Attachment B: DNRCD Resolution 25-01
- Attachment C: Original Plan for Services
- Attachment D: Expanded Plan for Services
- Attachment E: Required Factors for Review
- Attachment F: Draft Resolution 26-06



# Del Norte RCD Proposed Annexation

Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community  
 Del Norte RCD: Del Norte LAFCo,  
 Roads: U.S. Census Bureau TIGER/Line Shapefile Roads 2024

1/22/2026



Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 10N



241 W First St, Suite B, Smith River, CA 95567  
DelNorteRCD@yahoo.com

DEL NORTE COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT (DNRCD)  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

RESOLUTION NO. 25-01

RESOLUTION OF APPLICATION OF THE DEL NORTE RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS REQUESTING THE DEL NORTE LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION INITIATE PROCEEDINGS FOR ANNEXATION OF TERRITORY TO THE DISTRICT

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**RESOLVED**, by the Del Norte Resource Conservation District Board of Directors, that:

**WHEREAS**, the Del Norte Resource Conservation District (DNRCD) was formed by order of Del Norte County Board of Supervisor's August 2005; and

**WHEREAS**, DNRCD is operating as a Special District established under Division 9 of the California Public Resources Code to deliver and facilitate natural resources conservation services; and

**WHEREAS**, the DNRCD Board of Directors desires to initiate proceedings pursuant to Cortese/Knox/Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000, Division 3, commencing with California Government Code Section 56000, for the annexation of territory to the District; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed annexation of territory is consistent with the adopted DNRCD sphere of influence; and

**WHEREAS**, the reason for the proposed change of organization is to facilitate and provide natural resources conservation services across the entire area inclusive of Del Norte County, the incorporated area of Crescent City and the unincorporated areas of Smith River, Fort Dick, Gasquet, Hiouchi and Klamath; and

**WHEREAS**, notice of intent to adopt this resolution of application has been given, and this Board has conducted a public meeting based on this notification; and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, This Resolution of Application is hereby approved and adopted by the DNRCD Board of Directors.

The Del Norte Local Agency Formation Commission is hereby requested to initiate proceedings for the proposed change of organization that includes the entire area inclusive of Del Norte County, the incorporated area of Crescent City and the unincorporated areas of Smith River, Fort Dick, Gasquet, Hiouchi and Klamath in a manner provided by the Cortese/Knox/Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000.


Passed and Adopted by the Board of Directors of the Del Norte Resource Conservation District this 19th day of February, 2025.

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution Number 25-01 was duly adopted by the Board of Directors following roll call vote:

Ayes: Matt Westbrook, Rob Miller, Vanessa Nunes, Steven Westbrook, Rich Wetherell, Robert Tedson

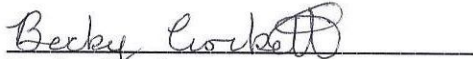
Nays: none

Absent: Blake Alexandre



\_\_\_\_\_  
Matt Westbrook, Chairman  
DNRCD Board of Directors

ATTEST:



\_\_\_\_\_  
Becky Crockett  
DNRCD District Manager

## RCD Annexation Application Plan for Services.

(1) An enumeration and description of the services currently provided or to be extended to the affected territory.

The DNRCD aims to provide the following services County-wide for the purpose of facilitating and actively participating in achieving an improvement in the balance between the natural environment and resource productivity within our county.

**Collaboration Lead:** Lead, facilitate collaboration and participate as appropriate in projects within Del Norte County impacting agriculture, forestry, natural resources and land use.

**Wildfire Resilience:** Work closely with all entities engaged in wildfire management projects to prevent wildfires, increase resilience, maintain existing risk reduction efforts and reduce the risk of wildfires to communities, agriculture, forestry and resource lands. Evaluate opportunities for biomass utilization in agriculture, forestry, energy production and carbon sequestration.

**Water Quality:** Effectively manage agriculture, forestry and natural resources towards improving water quality including: improving drainage, erosion control and productivity on agricultural lands; restoring riparian habitat by establishing native vegetation; advocating on-site nutrient management; establishing buffer areas between tilled agriculture and natural stream corridors; and restoring natural fluvial processes for sediment transport.

**Stream Restoration and Enhancement:** Actively lead, advocate and provide financial support (grant applications) for stream restoration and riparian enhancements in support of aquatic and terrestrial species habitat; especially for the benefit of native fish populations.

**Agricultural Lands Restoration:** Advocate and work with agricultural property owners and renters to restore compromised agricultural lands to increase productivity. Actions to include noxious weed abatement, grazing recommendations for Aleutian Goose and Rosevelt Elk management, coordination with the Natural Resource Conservation Service for education and financial assistance, and advocacy towards maintaining and preserving the utilization of historical agricultural lands in the county.

**Fish and Wildlife Adaptive Management:** Advocate, lead and actively participate in fish and wildlife projects that provide a mutual benefit to agriculture, forestry production and species preservation. Examples include management of the Aleutian Goose and Rosevelt Elk populations.

(2) The level and range of those services.

The level of services to be provided is dependent on grant approval for various projects that are proposed. The range of services is county wide.

(3) An indication of when those services can feasibly be extended to the affected territory, if new services are proposed.

The opportunity for RCD services are to be extended upon approval of annexation with no new services being required in order for implementation.

(4) An indication of any improvement or upgrading of structures, roads, sewer or water facilities, or other conditions the local agency would impose or require within the affected territory if the change of organization or reorganization is completed.

No new improvements or upgrades to structures, roads, sewer or water facilities, or other conditions are required.

(5) Information with respect to how those services will be financed.

Services will continue to be provided through grant funding as opportunities arise.

**Del Norte Resource Conservation District  
LAFCo Annexation Application  
Plan for Services**

**1. Please provide expanded information on the District's plan for services related to Collaboration Lead; Wildfire Resilience; Water Quality; Stream Restoration and Enhancement; Agricultural Lands Restoration; and Fish and Wildlife Adaptive Management:**

**a. An enumeration and description of the services currently provided or to be extended to the affected territory:**

The Del Norte Resource Conservation District (DNRCDC) is currently involved in several projects that encompass the above services, many of which are both within the existing district boundary and many which extend beyond the district boundary countywide. Some examples include: Developing the Smith River Plain Watershed Management Plan, Leading the collaborative effort to develop a plan for the Tolowa Dunes Wildlife Area; Working with the Smith River Alliance (SRA) on the Tryon Creek Restoration Project and the Delilah Creek Restoration Project; Partnering with the Del Norte Fire Safe Council (DNFSC) on the Westbrook Prairie prescribed burn; Working with the County, the US Forest Service and the DNFSC to develop the Smith to Klamath Initiative (a landscape scale context for long-term forest health and fire resilience); Working with the DNFSC on the development of a countywide update to the Community Wildfire Protection Plan; Leading a Cal-Fire 2.6 Million Forest Health Grant with the DNFSC, Green Diamond, the USFS, and the Tolowa Dee-Ni' Nation for the Hiouchi to Smith River Forest Health & Protection Plan; Leading the grant applications countywide for the California Department of Food and Agriculture Healthy Soils Program (HSP) and State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program (SWEEP); Recipient of the North Coast Resource Partnership (NCRP) 2026 Capacity Grant (\$75,000.) to assist with expanded services county-wide.

**b. The level and range of those services.**

The level of services will be extended for all activities within the knowledge and experience of the DNRCDC for the elements identified above provided grant funding for those services exist or can be awarded. The range of those services is planned countywide. As noted above, many services have already been extended countywide.

**c. An indication of when those services can feasibly be extended to the affected territory, if new services are proposed.**

The DNRCDC is currently offering services countywide as explained in the above description of the projects currently under way. The opportunity to extend these services countywide has been partly determined by the requirements of the grant funding agencies.

**d. An indication of any improvement or upgrading of structures, roads, sewer or water facilities, or other conditions the local agency would impose or require within the affected territory if the change of organization or reorganization is completed.**

No improvement or upgrades to infrastructure is required for the DNRCDC to expand services countywide.

**e. Information with respect to how those services will be financed.**

The DNRCDC's services are all funded through state and federal grants.

**2. What potential partnerships do you anticipate in the south and east regions of the County?**

With the official boundary expansion countywide, the DNRCS will continue to extend assistance and partnerships both east and south of the existing boundary. These partnerships include the USFS, private timber entities, the Elk Vally Rancheria, the Yurok, multiple environmental organizations, the communities of Crescent City, Hiouch, Gasquet and Fort Dick and the Grange.

**3. What opportunities for adaptive fish and wildlife management exist in the proposed annexation territory?**

Multiple project opportunities for fish and wildlife adaptive management have been identified within the proposed annexation territory. These opportunities include expansion of the Smith River Watershed Management Plan and implementation of fish restoration projects to the south side of the Smith River Plain; continuation in leading the Management Plan for the Tolowa Dunes Wildlife Area; agriculture pasture improvements on lands south of the existing boundary to facilitate management of elk populations; assistance and grant funding collaboration for the continuing Elk Creek wetlands project; and collaboration with the Yurok fisheries on Klamath fish restoration projects.

**4. Are there any plans to find an eligible agency to assist with grant writing for the 2026 State Fire Capacity Grant Program?**

As noted by LAFCo, this grant program allocates up to \$200,000. with a focus on developing Community Wildfire Protection Plans, Hazardous Fuels Reduction on non-federal lands and Wildfire Prevention and Mitigation education and outreach. The DNRCD has not focused on this funding source or looked for an agency to assist with grant writing. The DNRCD has several years of experience writing grant applications and has relied on the Humboldt County RCD and the DNFSC for assistance in writing grant applications with a focus on the 3 areas set forth in the 2026 State Fire Capacity Grant Program. The DNRCD will be assisting the DNFSC in updating the Del Norte County Community Wildfire Protection Plan under grants already awarded. The DNRCD is the lead in a 2.6 Million Forest Health Grant which includes Hazardous Fuels Reduction on non-federal lands (Green Diamond). The DNRCD has also been awarded funds for Wildfire Prevention and Mitigation education and outreach through a California Coastal Conservancy (SCC) Block Grant.

**5. Please provide information related to the maintenance of physical and economic integrity of agricultural lands resulting from the proposal.**

There are multiple opportunities to improve agricultural lands in Del Norte County to enhance the economic integrity of our lands. The DNRCD is working closely with agricultural producers to identify and fund regenerative land management approaches and diversify crop commodities that can thrive in Del Norte County and result in an economic benefit to producers. The DNRCD will lead two grant opportunities for Del Norte County (Healthy Soils and the State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Programs) to fund these activities. Multiple actions are underway in research, education and development including utilizing biochar to resolve chemical issues within lily bulb soils, providing funding opportunities to socially disadvantaged producers and identifying viable alternative crop opportunities for potential agricultural producers.

**6. If the District is successful with new projects in the proposed annexation territory, is there start-up funding available?**

Yes. The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) provided funding for a staff person through October 2026. The SCC through a block grant with the North Coast RCD Regional Collaborative provided funding to initiate wildfire planning and the North Coast Resource Partnership (NCRP) provided the DNRCD a Capacity Funding Grant in April, 2026.

**7. Please provide an update on the development of a District website. Is there an updated timeline for this?**

Development of a DNRCD website is a requirement of the SCC Wildfire Block Grant awarded in 2025. That work program has the work on website development starting in January, 2026 and being completed in June, 2026.

**AGENDA ITEM 4.C.  
ATTACHMENT E: ANALYSIS OF REQUIRED FACTORS**

Government Code §56668 requires the Commission to consider 17 specific factors anytime it reviews proposals for a change of organization or reorganization involving special districts. The purpose in considering these factors is to help inform the Commission in its decision-making process.

**1) Population and population density; land area and land use; assessed valuation; topography, natural boundaries, and drainage basins; proximity to other populated areas; the likelihood of significant growth in the area, and in adjacent incorporated and unincorporated areas, during the next 10 years.**

The proposed Del Norte Resource Conservation District (DNRCD) annexation area covers a majority (approximately 985 square miles) of Del Norte County, including incorporated (City of Crescent City) lands and unincorporated lands such as Smith River, Fort Dick, Gasquet, Hiouchi, and Klamath. The County is made up of steep terrain, redwood forested lands, and a large coastal zone. There are 15,807 parcels included in the proposed annexation area. Much of the County is undeveloped and largely forested; large portions of County land are federally or state owned as part of Six Rivers National Forest, Smith River National Recreation Area, and Redwood National and State Parks.

There is an estimated population of 27,743<sup>1</sup> persons and 15,603<sup>2</sup> registered voters in the area. As such, the area is considered inhabited for purposes of the LAFCO annexation process (more than 12 registered voters).

Land uses within the annexation area are subject to the Del Norte County General Plan, last comprehensively updated in 2003. Land use designations within the annexation area include: Agricultural Prime; Agricultural General; Timberland; Rural Residential; Rural Neighborhood; Rural Mobilehome Park; Golf; Visitor-Serving Commercial; General Commercial; Light Industrial; General Industrial; Agricultural Industrial; Suburban Residential; Urban Residential; Multi-Family; Urban Mobilehome Park; Public Facility; Resource Conservation Area; Natural Hazard; Riparian Corridor; Harbor Dependent; Harbor Dependent Commercial; Harbor Dependent Recreational; Harbor Related; Greenery; and Federal/State Lands.

Zoning is subject to the Del Norte County Zoning Code and must be consistent with the General Plan. The County designates non-coastal zoning and coastal-zoning. Zoning designations within the annexation area include: U (Unclassified); A (Agricultural districts); R1-A (Single family residential-agricultural districts); R2-A (Multiple family residential-agricultural districts); R-1 (Single family residence districts); R-2 (Low density multiple family residence districts); R-3 (High density multiple family residence districts); R-H (Residential-highway districts); C-1 (Neighborhood commercial districts); C-2 (Central business districts); C-3 (General commercial districts); M (Industrial districts); P-C (Planned community districts); F-R (Forest-recreation districts); T (Trailer and mobile home districts); FP-1 (Primary flood plain districts); FP-2 (Secondary flood plain districts); FP-3 (Tertiary flood plain districts); and B combining (Building site area districts).

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<sup>1</sup> US Census Bureau. 2020. Table P1: Race. Decennial Census.

<sup>2</sup> Statewide Database. 2025. "2025 Special Election Precinct Data". <https://statewidedatabase.org/d20/s25.html>.

No land use or zoning changes will result from the annexation. The total assessed value of properties within the annexation area is \$2,854,188,840<sup>3</sup>. The proposed annexation does not have 100 percent landowner consent.

There is no proposed development as part of this annexation and as such, no significant growth is anticipated as a result of the annexation. Del Norte County is projected to experience a slow decline in population between now and 2030 according to the California Department of Finance.

***2) The need for organized community services; the present cost and adequacy of governmental services and controls in the area; probable future needs for those services and controls; probable effect of the proposed annexation, or exclusion and of alternative courses of action on the cost and adequacy of services and controls in the area and adjacent areas.***

The proposed annexation area requires the extension of resource conservation services. Some of the areas within the proposed annexation territory are sites of current conservation programs related to wildfire resilience, water quality, stream restoration and enhancement, agricultural lands restoration, and fish and wildlife adaptive management. Some services are only being provided within the existing district boundary. Should annexation be approved, landowners and areas of the entire County would be able to more easily receive natural resource conservation services and conservation planning efforts.

The provision of resource conservation services will be financed through state and federal grants. All DNRCD services are grant funded.

No infrastructure improvements or upgrades are required in order for DNRCD to extend services into the proposed annexation territory.

As part of its review, LAFCO is required to consider alternative courses of action related to the cost and adequacy of services in the affected area and adjacent areas. There are no other nearby resource conservation service providers that could begin providing service to the proposed annexation area, with the exception of out-of-county providers or the North Coast Resource Partnership (NCRP) which is a collaborative organization that works with entities such as Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs) to carry out its work.

An alternative to annexation could be denying the annexation and limiting the District to only providing services within its jurisdictional boundary. However, this is not a recommended alternative as many services are already being provided in the proposed annexation territory due to countywide collaborative efforts. Additionally, many RCDs in the north state including Humboldt, Trinity, and Mendocino RCDs cover all, or nearly all, of County lands. It is a common practice for RCDs to encompass much of the county they're located in. As such, there is no practical alternative to annexation to the DNRCD.

***3) The effect of the proposed action and of alternative actions, on adjacent areas, on mutual social and economic interests, and on the local governmental structure of the county.***

The proposed annexation to the DNRCD would expand the District boundaries within its adopted Sphere of Influence (SOI). The proposed annexation is located adjacent to the District's

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<sup>3</sup> ArcGis. March 23, 2026. Land parcels within Del Norte County.  
<https://www.arcgis.com/home/item.html?id=82781d56aaf04655b4bb551b5e907aa3#overview>

boundary and would allow the extension of resource conservation services to the parcels in the annexation area. The extension of conservation services would provide technical and financial assistance to landowners and residents across the County related to habitat restoration, natural resource conservation, and environmental health projects. The District partners with local, state, federal, non-governmental, and other agencies including the Del Norte Fire Safe Council, US Forest Service, Green Diamond, and the Tolowa Dee-Ni' Nation on a variety of projects that directly restore natural lands and promote wildfire resiliency.

These projects result in a healthier and more sustainable environment which increases value of the County and tourism opportunities, a major contributor to the area's economy. Resource conservation service extension could improve the value and marketability of developed residences, making them more attractive and sustainable for future generations.

***4) The conformity of the proposal and its anticipated effects with both the adopted Commission policies on providing planned, orderly, efficient patterns of urban development, and the policies and priorities set forth in G.C. §56377.***

Government Code §56377 requires LAFCo to consider the effect of a proposal on the preservation of open space, including agricultural and timberlands, and the consistency of the proposal with applicable open-space conservation policies. The extension of services in the proposed annexation area will have a positive impact on agricultural and open-space lands. The District works on a variety of projects for soil health (CA Dept of Food and Agriculture Healthy Soils Program), prescribed burns, and wildlife areas.

However, the proposed annexation is not expected to induce the conversion of open space lands to uses other than open space uses. Agricultural, timberland, and open-space lands are anticipated to remain as natural lands and are proposed to be restored or protected through the extension of resource conservation services. As such, the proposed annexation conforms with LAFCo policies and Government Code §56377 regarding development and preservation of open-space lands.

***5) The effect of the proposal on maintaining the physical and economic integrity of agricultural lands, as defined by G.C. §56016.***

Government Code §56016 requires LAFCo to consider whether a proposal would adversely affect the physical and economic integrity of agricultural lands, defined as land currently used for agricultural production or designated for long-term agricultural use. Lands within the County that have been designated for agricultural lands or are currently in active agricultural production will remain as agricultural lands. The proposed annexation makes no proposed change to these lands' designations and uses.

The DNRCD is working closely with agricultural producers to identify and fund regenerative land management approaches and diversify crop commodities that can thrive in Del Norte County and result in an economic benefit to producers. The DNRCD will lead two grant opportunities for Del Norte County (Healthy Soils and the State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Programs) to fund these activities. Multiple actions are underway in research, education and development including utilizing biochar to resolve chemical issues within lily bulb soils, providing funding opportunities to socially disadvantaged producers and identifying viable alternative crop opportunities for potential agricultural producers.

DNRCD, in its application, has determined that the proposed annexation is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). LAFCo staff have also determined the proposed annexation is covered by the common sense exemption (CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)3) where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment. It is also categorically exempt under the Class 20 Exemption pursuant to Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, which provides a categorical exemption for changes in organization of local agencies that do not change the geographical area in which previously existing powers are exercised.

No new development, changes in use, expansion of existing uses, or new or enhanced provision of public services are proposed or anticipated post-annexation. The proposed annexation is not anticipated to result in construction or other physical alteration of the environment because the existing land uses and public services are proposed to remain the same. There is no evidence presented of unusual circumstances that might cause a significant effect on the environment (Title 14 CCR § 15300.2(c)).

Based on the District's environmental review and long-range land use designations for the area, the proposed annexation would not impair the physical or economic integrity of agricultural lands consistent with Government Code §56016.

***6) The definiteness and certainty of the boundaries of the territory, the nonconformance of proposed boundaries with lines of assessment or ownership, the creation of islands or corridors of unincorporated territory, and other similar matters affecting the proposed boundaries.***

The existing District boundary is not contiguous. The proposed annexation area is proposed to include all lands not already within the District's boundary. Thus, the annexation creates a logical, contiguous boundary that is coterminous with that of the County.

***7) A regional transportation plan adopted pursuant to G.C. §65080.***

Government Code §65080 requires the preparation of a Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) by the region's designated transportation planning agency. In Del Norte County, this function is carried out by the Del Norte Local Transportation Commission, which has adopted a long-range Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) that was most recently adopted in 2024. The RTP will be updated every four to five years. Since the annexation is countywide, there are many regional transportation projects identified within the annexation area.

The proposed DNRCD annexation does not involve roadway construction, roadway ownership, or transportation system management, all of which remain under Del Norte County jurisdiction. There is no change to any transportation services or systems as a result of the proposed annexation.

From a LAFCo perspective, the annexation enables the provision of resource conservation service and does not conflict with any current regional transportation objectives or preclude any future transportation improvements that may be identified in future RTP updates. Any future roadway extensions, connectivity improvements, or funding mechanisms remain subject to separate County review, programming, and approval processes. Accordingly, the proposed annexation does not impair consistency with Government Code §65080 or adopted regional transportation planning policies.

**8) Consistency with city or county general and specific plans.**

The annexation area is governed by the Del Norte County General Plan, City of Crescent City General Plan, Crescent City Harbor Land Use Plan, County zoning regulations, and all other applicable County and City plans. The County General Plan states that project design must reflect and consider natural features, suitability of soils, availability of water, hazards, circulation, and the relationship of the project to surrounding uses.

From a LAFCo perspective, the proposed annexation supports orderly and efficient implementation of adopted land use plans by enabling resource conservation services in developed areas long planned for urban services and undeveloped lands planned for natural resource preservation and management.

**9) The sphere of influence of any local agency which may be applicable to the proposal being reviewed.**

The proposed annexation area is located entirely within DNRCD's adopted Sphere of Influence (SOI). LAFCo approved DNRCD's most recent comprehensive SOI Update on November 24, 2025, which expanded the District's SOI to be countywide. The proposed annexation area falls within the SOI and is therefore consistent with the Commission's long-range planning determination regarding DNRCD's future service area.

As required by the SOI conditions, DNRCD has documented service availability through its annexation application materials, including the identification of potential start-up grant funding from entities such as the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), North Coast Resource Partnership (NCRP), and California State Coastal Conservancy (SCC). The annexation remains consistent with the Commission's SOI policies related to growth management, resource protection, and orderly service provision.

**10) The comments of any affected local agency or other public agency.**

Upon receipt of the annexation application, LAFCo staff circulated a Notice of Filing and referral materials to affected local agencies and departments for review and comment in January 2026. One comment was received by Big Rock Community Services District requesting a copy of the District's application materials and stating that the timeframe given to provide public comment prior to the annexation going to hearing was inadequate. Staff explained that the Notice of Filing was soliciting a first round of agency comments and that comments would continue to be accepted anytime prior to, or at, the public hearing on the item once scheduled. No further comments have been received from the District to date.

Two other responses were received requesting a copy of the District's application materials, including one from the City of Crescent City and one from the Elk Valley Rancheria. No further comments have been received.

**11) The ability of the newly formed or receiving entity to provide the services which are the subject of the application to the area, including the sufficiency of revenues for those services following the proposed boundary change.**

DNRCD has prepared a Plan for Services ([Attachment D](#)) outlining its plan to provide resource conservation services in the annexation area, noting that many services are already provided

outside of its boundary. There are no required infrastructure improvements necessary to support the provision of services. All service provision is funded by grant funding.

Upon annexation, the affected territory would become subject to all previously authorized charges, fees, assessments, special taxes, rules, regulations, and ordinances lawfully enacted by the DNRCD.

The Del Norte County Auditor-Controller's office stated on April 9, 2026, that "Pursuant to a notice of possible annexation issued by the Del Norte Resource Conservation District, and as required by Revenue and Taxation Code Section 99(b)(3), the Del Norte Auditor-Controller office has determined that the estimated property tax revenue subject to a negotiated exchange is zero." Therefore, the District will not receive any base year property tax revenue or annual property tax increment revenue for the parcels affected by the proposed annexation. Based on information provided, the proposed annexation will not impair DNRCD's ability to provide adequate services.

**12) *Timely availability of water supplies adequate for projected needs as specified in G.C. §65352.5.***

There is no increased demand on water supplies as a result of the proposed annexation as determined by Government Code §65352.5. Water service providers vary depending on the location in the County but include private water systems, special districts, and the City of Crescent City.

However, the proposed annexation has the potential to impact water resource management. The District engages in water management projects including the development of the Smith River Plain Watershed Management Plan and various stream restoration projects. These projects will not require additional water supplies; existing water supply is adequate to meet projected needs.

**13) *The extent to which the proposal will affect a city or cities and the county in achieving their respective fair shares of the regional housing needs as determined by the appropriate council of governments consistent with Article 10.6 (commencing with §65580) of Chapter 3 of Division 1 of Title 7.***

The annexation has no impact on the County's ability to implement its housing plans and make meaningful progress toward meeting its 6<sup>th</sup> Cycle Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA). No new residential units are proposed as part of this annexation proposal.

**14) *Any information or comments from the landowner or owners, voters, or residents of the affected territory.***

DNRCD has not received written consent from 100 percent of the landowners within the proposed annexation. LAFCo published a standard public notice and display advertisement regarding the May 18, 2026, public hearing in the Del Norte Triplicate instead of mailing notice directly to landowners and registered voters in accordance with Government Code §56157(h). To date, no comments have been received from surrounding landowners, voters, or residents regarding the proposed annexation.

Unless LAFCo receives written opposition to the proposal from landowners or registered voters within the affected territory before the conclusion of the hearing on the proposal, the Commission intends to waive protest proceedings as authorized by, and in compliance with, California Government Code §56663.

**15) Any information relating to existing land use designations.**

Land uses within the County are subject to the Del Norte County General Plan and include the following land uses: Agricultural Prime; Agricultural General; Timberland; Rural Residential; Rural Neighborhood; Rural Mobilehome Park; Golf; Visitor-Serving Commercial; General Commercial; Light Industrial; General Industrial; Agricultural Industrial; Suburban Residential; Urban Residential; Multi-Family; Urban Mobilehome Park; Public Facility; Resource Conservation Area; Natural Hazard; Riparian Corridor; Harbor Dependent; Harbor Dependent Commercial; Harbor Dependent Recreational; Harbor Related; Greenery; and Federal/State Lands.

There is no change to the land use designations of the parcels as part of the annexation proposal.

**16) The extent to which the proposal will promote environmental justice. As used in this subdivision, “environmental justice” means the fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and incomes with respect to the local of public facilities and the provision of public services.**

The proposal would not result in inconsistencies with environmental justice safeguards. Residents within the proposed annexation area would receive their current level of public services (water, fire protection, sewer, etc); the proposed annexation would have no effect on current public service provision in the County.

Del Norte County has a Median Household Income (MHI) of \$67,058 according to the 2024 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates by the US Census Bureau. This is 67 percent of the State’s MHI of \$100,149. While the County cannot qualify as a Disadvantaged Unincorporated Community (DUC) since a county is not eligible for this distinction, the County is considered economically disadvantaged and many communities in Del Norte are classified as a DUC. LAFCo policy is to consider and address water, sewer, and/or fire service deficiencies in DUCs. The proposed annexation would not address any water, sewer, and/or fire service deficiencies in the disadvantaged County or communities, but no marginalized populations or otherwise disadvantaged communities will be adversely affected by the proposal.

**17) In the case of district annexation, whether the proposed annexation will be for the interest of landowners or present or future inhabitants within the district and within the territory proposed to be annexed to the district.**

The proposed annexation supports coordinated service delivery and natural resource conservation in a manner that benefits both current and any future inhabitants. Current and future residents will benefit from having the potential for resource conservation projects to occur in their area of the County.

**DEL NORTE LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION**

**RESOLUTION 26-06**

**RESOLUTION OF THE DEL NORTE LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION APPROVING THE ANNEXATION OF TERRITORY TO THE DEL NORTE RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**WHEREAS**, the Cortese Knox Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 governs the organization and reorganization of cities and special districts by Local Agency Formation Commissions (LAFCO), as defined and specified in Government Code Sections 56000 et seq.; and

**WHEREAS**, the Del Norte Resource Conservation District (“Del Norte RCD” or “District”) provides resource conservation services to areas within its jurisdictional boundary; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commission conducted a MSR to evaluate the availability and performance of governmental services provided by the District, pursuant to California Government Code Section 56430; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commission conducted a SOI update for the District pursuant to California Government Code Section 56425, amending the sphere to cover the entirety of Del Norte County; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commission heard and fully considered all the evidence presented at a public hearing held on the MSR and SOI Update on November 24, 2025; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commission approved the SOI amendment for the District by Resolution 25-06; and

**WHEREAS**, the District filed an application with the Commission by resolution of application; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposal seeks Commission approval for annexation of approximately 985 square miles within the sphere of influence of the Del Norte RCD; and

**WHEREAS**, the Executive Officer has given notice of the public hearing by the Commission on this matter in the form and manner provided by law; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commission heard and fully considered all the evidence presented at a public hearing held on May 18, 2026; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commission considered all the factors required under California Government Code Section 56668 and adopted local policies and procedures.

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED, DETERMINED, AND ORDERED** as follows:

1. The Commission’s determinations on the proposal incorporate the information and analysis provided in the Executive Officer’s written report.

2. The Commission, as Responsible Agency, hereby determines that the annexation is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under the common sense exemption (CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)3) and the Class 20 Exemption pursuant to Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, which provides a categorical exemption for changes in organization of local agencies that do not change the geographical area in which previously existing powers are exercised. For the following reasons, this exemption applies:
  - No new development, changes in use, expansion of existing uses, or new or enhanced provision of public services are proposed or anticipated post-annexation.
  - The proposed annexation is not anticipated to result in construction or other physical alteration of the environment because the existing land uses and public services are proposed to remain the same.
  - There is no evidence presented of unusual circumstances that might cause a significant effect on the environment (Title 14 CCR § 15300.2(c)).
3. The Commission approves the annexation of resource conservation service areas served by Del Norte RCD, contingent upon the satisfaction of the following terms and conditions as determined by the Executive Officer:
  - a. Completion of the 30-day reconsideration period provided under Government Code §56895.
  - b. Completion of conducting authority proceedings by Executive Officer (unless waived in accordance with Government Code §56663).
  - c. Submittal of a final map of the affected territory conforming to the requirements of the State Board of Equalization.
  - d. Payment of any outstanding fees as identified in the Commission's adopted fee schedule.
  - e. Completion of the development of a website no later than one year after the effective date of the annexation.
  - f. Upon the effective date of the annexation, all parcels within the affected territory shall be subject to all applicable charges, fees, rates, rules, regulations, and ordinances lawfully enacted by the District for the provision of resource conservation services.
4. Unless written opposition to the proposal is received from landowners or registered voters within the affected territory before the conclusion of the hearing, the Commission intends to waive protest proceedings, as authorized by, California Government Code Section 56663.
5. The proposal is assigned the following distinctive short-term designation:

Del Norte RCD Annexation 26-06
6. The effective date shall be the date of recordation of the Certificate of Completion. The Certificate of Completion must be filed within one calendar year from the date of approval unless a time extension is approved by the Commission.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Del Norte Resource Conservation District - Annexation

of Countywide Territory is hereby approved and incorporated as presented on the attached Exhibit A.

**THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION** was introduced at a special meeting of the Del Norte Local Agency Formation Commission on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of May 2026, and adopted by the following vote:

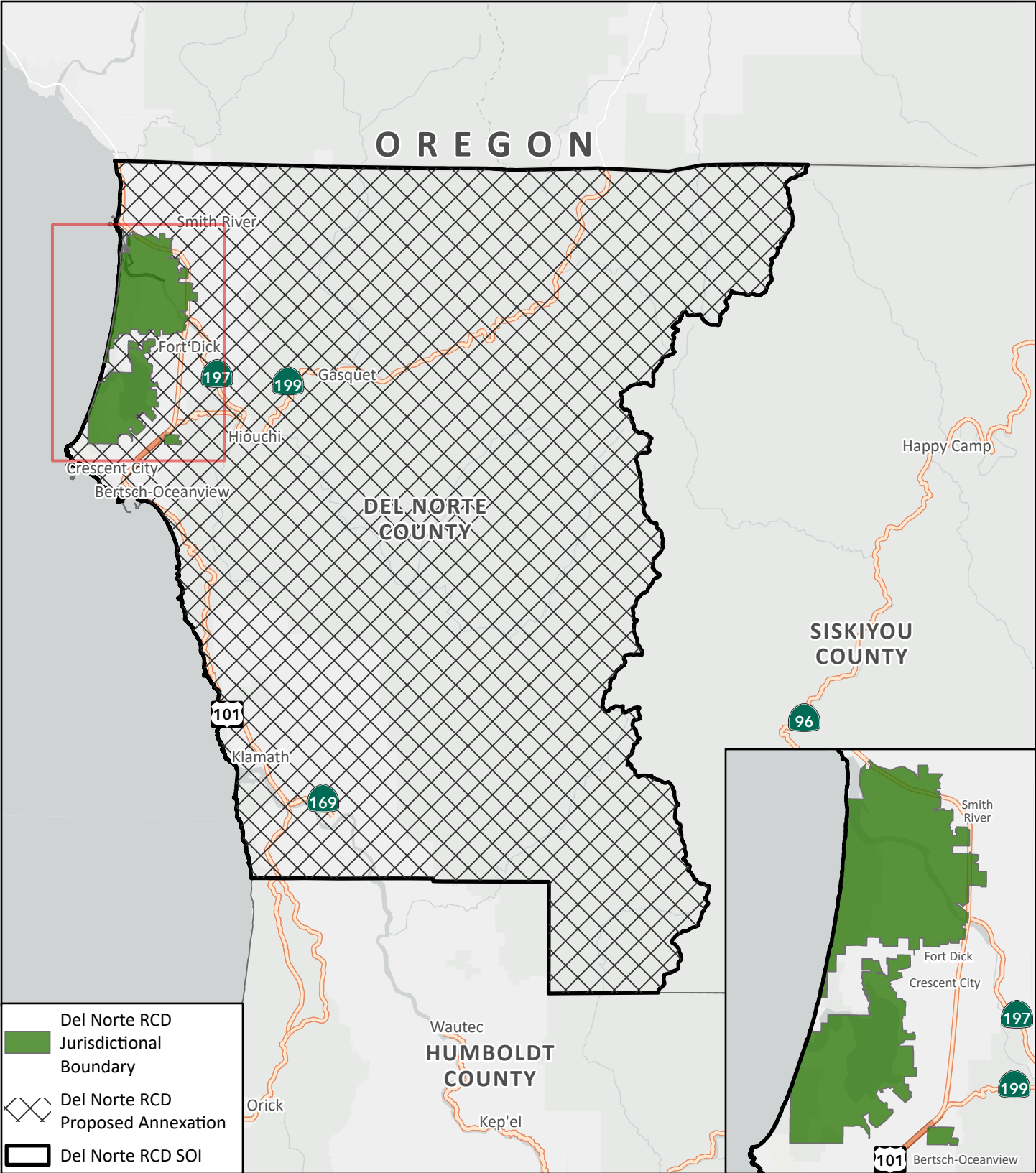
AYES:  
NOES:  
ABSENT:  
ABSTAIN:




Attest:

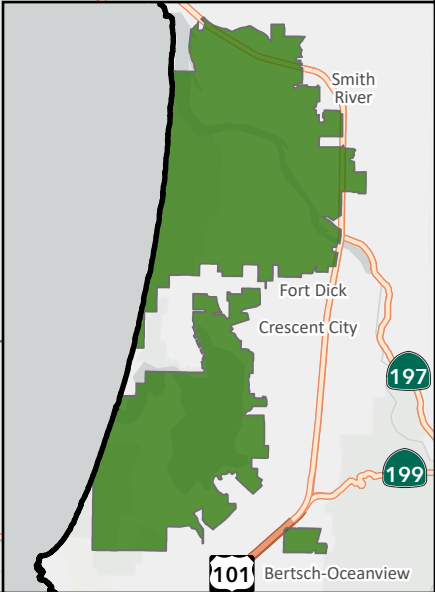
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Dean Wilson, Chair  
Del Norte LAFCo

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George Williamson, AICP, Executive Officer  
Del Norte LAFCo

EXHIBIT A - Del Norte Resource Conservation District Proposed Annexation Map



-  Del Norte RCD Jurisdictional Boundary
-  Del Norte RCD Proposed Annexation
-  Del Norte RCD SOI




## Del Norte RCD Proposed Annexation

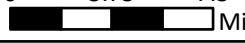
Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community  
 Del Norte RCD: Del Norte LAFCo,  
 Roads: U.S. Census Bureau TIGER/Line Shapefile Roads 2024

1/22/2026


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PLANWEST  
PARTNERS, INC.



Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 10N