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CITY OF UKIAH TO CONSIDER NEXT STEPS ON ANNEXATION PROPOSAL AT APRIL 16 COUNCIL MEETING

April 11, 2025 – Ukiah, CA — The Ukiah City Council will consider whether to move forward with an annexation initiative during its regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, April 16, 2025. If the Council provides direction, City staff would begin preparing a formal annexation application for submission to the Mendocino Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) later this year.

Over the past several months, City staff have conducted preliminary background work to assess what annexation would mean for public service delivery and have developed draft boundary maps for the Council's consideration. If the Council authorizes the City to proceed, a more detailed analysis and formal planning process would follow.

"This is a key moment," said Ukiah City Manager Sage Sangiacomo. "Staff has done the preliminary work to bring a thoughtful, well-researched proposal forward, and we are now awaiting direction from the City Council on whether to take the next steps toward annexation. We've already seen the benefits of greater regional coordination as Ukiah has led efforts to provide quality recreation, water, and emergency response services to areas beyond our physical city boundaries – annexation is a positive next step that would bring similar benefits of regional coordination for other public services."

This action builds on policy direction given by the City Council in 2020 to explore annexation as a tool to support coordinated growth, service efficiency, and long-term planning in the greater Ukiah region. In recent years, Ukiah has implemented a series of proactive planning actions, positioning the City to now consider annexation as the responsible next step. These actions included adopting an updated 2040 General Plan in 2022 along with an updated Ukiah Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Update. Additionally, the City worked with Ukiah Valley Fire District in coordinating emergency response through the Ukiah Valley Fire Authority annexation, and improved water resource

management and supply through consolidation of smaller districts and creation of the Ukiah Valley Water Authority. The City has also secured a Master Tax Sharing Agreement with the County, successfully annexed City-owned properties and areas of the Western Hills, and passed a Right to Farm ordinance to protect agricultural land use within city boundaries. These existing service efficiencies and land use protections would be reflected and leveraged in a more comprehensive annexation effort that aligns formal city boundaries with existing urban growth patterns.


If pursued, annexation could:

- Enable more reliable and coordinated government services, including police, code enforcement, and infrastructure maintenance.
- Secure a stronger, more focused tax base to fund quality services and community amenities.
- Give residents in annexed areas a voice in City elections and representation on issues that affect their neighborhoods.
- Provide a foundation for sustainable housing and commercial development while protecting agricultural land and open space.

The potential annexation area includes land adjacent to current city boundaries, identified as likely to experience continued growth. These areas are currently served by a mix of county and special district services. A unified approach through City annexation could streamline service delivery, improve preparedness and planning efforts, and enhance responsiveness to community needs.

If the Council votes to proceed on April 16, Staff will move forward with preparing an application that would come back to the Council this summer for adoption and approval of any relevant analysis. If Council approves the application at that time, a formal public review process, led by Mendocino LAFCo, would begin later this year and include public hearings and opportunities for input.

The City Council will meet on Wednesday, April 16th, starting at 5:15 pm, at 300 Seminary Avenue. The full agenda packet and materials can be found online at www.cityofukiah.com/meetings.



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