



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CITY OF UKIAH CONTINUES COMMUNITY DISCUSSIONS ON ANNEXATION OPTIONS & CONSIDERATIONS FOR BALANCED GROWTH

Ukiah, CA. October 9, 2025. — The City of Ukiah continues to engage community members in discussions about potential annexation options and the future growth of our community. As part of this ongoing engagement, the City met yesterday with representatives from three local organizations that have been active in the annexation discussion: Mendocino County Farm Bureau, Mendo Matters, and “No Ukiah Annexation.”

The meeting provided a valuable opportunity to exchange information, address misconceptions, and gather feedback on specific ideas that could inform revisions to the City’s potential annexation maps.

Mendocino County Farm Bureau leadership shared specific feedback on issues related to water, farmland, and agricultural production – key areas of importance for both the Farm Bureau and the City. Discussion topics included minimizing impacts to farmland, maintaining reliable water supplies, and ensuring that agricultural operations can continue successfully. Farm Bureau representatives also asked questions about water and sewer rates for properties in potential annexation areas.

“I felt everyone made a sincere effort to listen carefully to one another, and I appreciate the productive conversation,” said Ukiah Councilmember Mari Rodin. “The Farm Bureau representatives identified concrete areas of interest where we can work together to address concerns. This kind of collaboration is incredibly helpful as we continue to work toward uniting the Ukiah Valley through annexation.”

Mendo Matters representatives noted that the group as a whole could support future growth and annexation under the right circumstances. The group identified homelessness, water supply, and local economic growth as its top community priorities. The City made clear that it shares those priorities and committed to continue to provide information on how strategic, well-planned growth through annexation can help strengthen the local economy, address the challenges our homeless face, and ensure a reliable water supply for generations to come.

Misconceptions surrounding annexation and the City of Ukiah were also addressed. For example, when a Mendo Matters representative asked whether the City would take over the Flood Control District, City representatives made clear that no such proposal has ever been proposed or even considered. The City reaffirmed its strong partnership with the Flood Control District and their ongoing collaboration to protect regional water supplies,

including their partnership through Mendocino Inland Water and Power Commission (IWPC) and the City's support for Flood Control's annexation of Redwood Valley Water District.

Mendo Matters representatives also raised questions about emergency response capacity. The City noted that police and dispatch staffing levels are strong and that the Ukiah Valley Fire Authority has expanded its capacity to provide both ambulance and fire services. The City emphasized that ensuring strong and effective public safety coverage remains a top priority. Additionally, Mendo Matters asked about private septic tanks and related permitting processes; the City made clear that these processes would not change through annexation.

The "No Ukiah Annexation" group did not present specific proposals or recommendations on what considerations should inform any future annexation. The City remains open to receiving constructive input and suggestions that serve the community as a whole.

Moving forward, and as it committed to do in July, the City will continue to evaluate and incorporate community feedback to recalibrate annexation boundary alternatives – reflecting both practical service needs and the shared values of Ukiah residents.

"As Ukiah has grown over time, our city boundaries have not matched areas of development, resulting in a patchwork of overlapping and inconsistent municipal services," said Rodin. "Annexation has been identified as an important step forward to ensure positive growth occurs in areas where quality city services can be realistically and efficiently provided to our neighbors."

The City invites community members to share feedback or request a meeting by emailing sriley@cityofukiah.com.



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