



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **CITY OF UKIAH RELEASES NEW ANNEXATION PROPOSAL AND INVITES CONTINUED COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT; COMMUNITY WORKSHOP PLANNED FOR APRIL 30**

**Ukiah, CA. April 23, 2026.** – The City of Ukiah has released a new proposed annexation map and related public information materials as part of its ongoing effort to plan for the community’s future and align City boundaries with the services Ukiah already provides.

Information regarding this updated proposal, including an address look-up tool, can be found at City’s website: [cityofukiah.com/annexation](http://cityofukiah.com/annexation). Additionally, a community workshop will be held on Thursday, April 30<sup>th</sup> at the Ukiah Valley Conference Center, 200 South School Street, at 5:30 pm.

Ukiah is officially a city of approximately 17,000 residents, but as the county seat and regional economic hub, it serves more than 50,000 people each day who come to work, shop, attend school, access healthcare, and participate in community life. While this regional role is a point of pride, it also places growing demands on City services and infrastructure that extend well beyond Ukiah’s current boundaries.

“This annexation proposal is about meeting the needs of an evolving community; it seeks to provide an expanded level of services for newly incorporated areas,” said Councilmember Doug Crane. “The goal of this process is to deliver those services reliably, now and into future.”

In April 2025, the City introduced an initial annexation proposal, now referred to as the “Valley Oak Option”, which encompassed a wide swath of the Ukiah Valley. Following the release of the Valley Oak Option, the City received significant community feedback raising questions about boundaries, services, neighborhoods, and impacts. In response, the City committed to revisiting the proposal, reducing its scope, and conducting additional analysis.

Over the past several months, City staff have evaluated alternative options, taking into consideration public safety and utility service areas, tax revenues, development patterns, infrastructure responsibilities, natural boundaries, and the protection of agricultural land.

As a result of this work, the City is now sharing the analysis of two additional options—known as the “Sapling Option” and the smaller “Acorn Option”—to help the community understand what is feasible, what is not, and why. All of the proposed annexation alternatives focus on areas already within Ukiah’s established Sphere of Influence and identified in the Master Tax Sharing Agreement between the County and the Cities. Financial and service analyses show that, while smaller annexation footprints (like “Acorn”) may *appear* less impactful, they can create significant long-term financial strain and are not sustainable for the City.

“This is not about drawing lines on a map for the sake of growth,” said City Manager Sage Sangiacomo. “It’s about making informed, fiscally responsible decisions that protect current residents, ensure service reliability, and avoid uncoordinated development. We heard the community’s concerns, and this updated proposal reflects that input as well as the financial and service realities we have to plan for.”

The City emphasizes that annexation is a multi-step process that includes continued public input, City Council consideration, and review by the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo). No final decisions have been made.

Community members are encouraged to attend the community workshop on April 30<sup>th</sup>, review the proposed maps, watch the City’s informational video, and stay engaged throughout the process. These items, plus background materials and frequently asked questions, are available at [CityofUkiah.com/annexation](http://CityofUkiah.com/annexation).



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