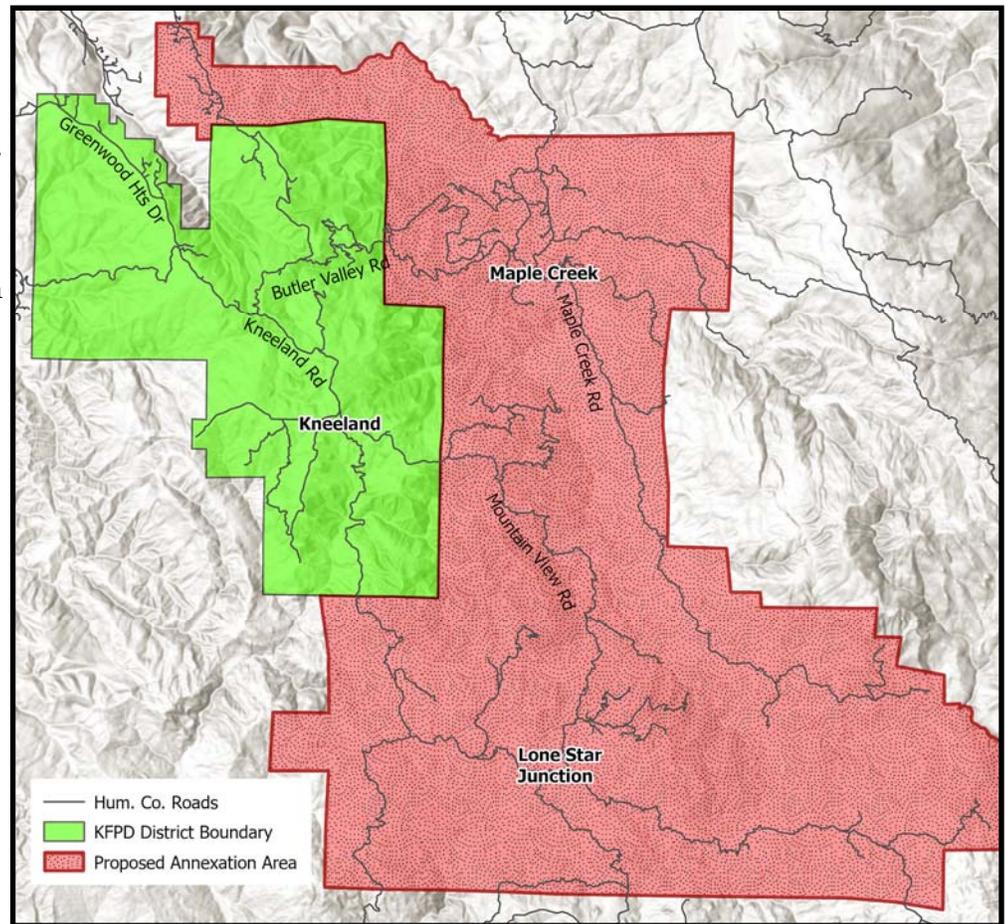


## What is the Kneeland Fire Protection District?

- Kneeland Fire Protection District (KFPD) is an independent, special district formed in 1990 governed by a five (5) member Board of Directors elected by registered voters that live in the District. Currently, the KFPD boundary encompasses 25,000 acres (or nearly 40 square miles) and includes the Kneeland Summit down towards Freshwater on Kneeland and Greenwood Heights roads.
- The District is authorized to provide community services within its jurisdictional boundary including: fire protection, rescue, emergency medical and other emergency response services. Kneeland Volunteer Fire Department is a 100% volunteer-run organization and has 10 dedicated volunteers.



Please visit <https://bit.ly/3SY2RrO> to access an interactive online map that shows the current district boundary and the proposed annexation area.

## Why is Annexation Being Proposed? Why Now?

- Kneeland has historically responded to a “Goodwill Response Area” that is more than twice as large as the District itself. This area is currently outside of any local jurisdiction that is responsible for providing community fire protection and rescue services (a jurisdictional “no-man’s- land”).
- The Goodwill Response Area represents approximately 70 percent of the land area to which KFPD is dispatched as the primary community fire and rescue responder. One out of every three of the District’s emergency responses are to the Goodwill Response Area.
- The Humboldt County Fire Chiefs’ Association has historically committed a portion of their annual Measure Z grant funding to support our out-of-district response. These funds will no longer be available to the District beginning in July, 2023. However, the Fire Chiefs’ Association has made grant funds available to support a technical team that will help us through the annexation process and will cover many of the associated expenses. **Please join District representatives to take advantage of this opportunity** to ensure that all areas that receive service from the KFPD are included within the District boundary and establish a reliable source of revenue to support services.

### How Will Annexation Benefit You? How Will Annexation Benefit the District?

- It may bring peace of mind to be included in the district, rather than relying on goodwill services if available.
- There could be insurance benefits. Fire insurance is getting harder to obtain; although there are no guarantees, being located within a fire related district may improve your ability to obtain or maintain fire insurance. In addition, the Kneeland Firewise boundary will expand with the district boundary and the number of insurance companies that offer discounts for such community-wide wildfire risk reduction efforts is increasing.
- In response to severe wildfire impacts and changes to state law, property can only be subdivided if it is located within a fire-related district.
- If successful, the proposed annexation will result in a long-term community- based and locally controlled revenue source to support the sustainable delivery of fire protection services for the whole response area.

### What Will the Proposed Annexation Cost Me?

- **Annual Tax:** residents of the District voted to approve a special tax to provide a source of funding for fire and rescue services. The annual special tax currently applied to parcels in-district will be applied to Assessor's Parcels located entirely or partially within the expanded KFPD boundary, based on land use types in the following manner:

Land Use Type	Annual Tax*
Unimproved and less than 10 acres	\$80.00
Unimproved and more than 10 acres	\$96.00
Improved	\$128.00
Non Taxable (TPZ-vacant, public lands or lands valued <\$5,000)	\$0.00

*\* The special tax ballot measure authorized the KFPD to increase the annual tax by 1% per year.*

- These taxes are deposited in a fund for use by the District. Estimates indicate that, if the Goodwill Response Area is included within the KFPD, the special taxes collected from the annexed area will generate nearly \$38,000 per year to support sustained fire and rescue services.

### What are Next Steps?

- Once the KFPD Board makes the decision to move forward with the annexation process; LAFCo reviews and considers approval of the boundary change. The process will start with the KFPD Board holding a public hearing to approve a Resolution of Application to LAFCo. A notice will be circulated in a local publication and shared on social media 21 days before the hearing.
- Once the annexation application is submitted to LAFCo, LAFCo will send a notice of filing to interested/affected agencies, a hearing date will be scheduled and a public notice will be issued 21 days in advance of the hearing.
- If written objections are received by the close of the hearing, a protest hearing will be scheduled to take place in Kneeland and another notice will be issued 21 days before that hearing.
- LAFCo will then take a decision based on the findings from the public hearings.