

July 10, 2023

County of Humboldt Grand Jury
c/o County of Humboldt Board of
Supervisors 825 5th St.,
Eureka, Ca. 95501

To Whom It May Concern:

The McKinleyville Municipal Advisory Committee (MMAC) appreciates the opportunity to respond to the Grand Jury Report dated May 22, 2023 "Incorporating the City of McKinleyville: To Be, or Not to Be?" The Grand Jury invited MMAC to respond to all findings and all recommendations within 60 days or a deadline of July 21, 2023. In September 2022, the MMAC voted to form a subcommittee to conduct research and outline current findings to inform the MMAC and the community about the feasibility of incorporation. This subcommittee, the McKinleyville Incorporation Exploration Subcommittee (MIESC) meets and conducts business in accordance with MMAC bylaws that include publicly noticed, publicly held and recorded meetings. MIESC is conducting research and developing recommendations to be delivered to the MMAC in the Fall of 2023. MIESC understands that the Initial Feasibility Analysis is a critical next step to provide objective data on the feasibility of incorporation in order to inform the citizens of McKinleyville. The recommendations in this report would position Humboldt County as the fiscal sponsor for the Initial Feasibility Analysis. MMAC and MIESC will continue to be responsive to community interests and will advocate for local agencies to take action, will aid in identification of funding to assist in the creation of the in-depth Initial Feasibility Analysis, and act with the agency granted by the community to address community interests to support these efforts.

To follow is the MMAC's response, formatted as required by the Humboldt County Grand Jury:

F1: Interest in the topic of incorporating McKinleyville as a city has been demonstrated by the citizens of McKinleyville. No in-depth Initial Feasibility Analysis of the advantages and disadvantages of incorporation has ever been conducted, resulting in the citizens not knowing the pros and cons of incorporation.

F1 Response: MMAC agrees with this finding. MMAC created the MIESC to research and outline current findings to inform the MMAC and the community about the feasibility of incorporation.

F2: Incorporation as a city poses financial and other impacts on the residents of the proposed new city, adjacent communities, and the county as a whole. Without an in-depth Initial Feasibility Analysis the citizens of McKinleyville cannot know how these impacts affect them.

F2 Response: MMAC agrees with this finding. The Initial Feasibility Analysis is needed for the community to understand potential changes, positive or negative impacts, and make decisions for the future of the community.

F3: The McKinleyville Municipal Advisory Committee is an appointed body that provides recommendations to the County Planning Commission and the County Board of Supervisors

on local issues. While the committee has received interest about incorporation from some citizens of McKinleyville, they have no ability to be responsive to these citizens because they cannot implement an in-depth Initial Feasibility Analysis.

F3 Response: MMAC agrees with this finding- However, MMAC is and will continue to be responsive to the citizens as evidenced in the formation of MIESC.

F4: An independent and neutral qualified company that specializes in such matters is needed to create an in-depth Initial Feasibility Analysis. No funding for such a study exists.

F4 Response: MMAC agrees with this finding.

R1: By no later than November 1 , 2023, the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors provide the McKinleyville Municipal Advisory Committee and any of its subcommittees with the authority to seek other sources of funding to assist in the creation of the in-depth Initial Feasibility Analysis. (F1, F2, F3, and F4)

R1 Response: MMAC supports this recommendation to be implemented with the stated timeline with the modification that the recommendation read as follows: "By no later than November 1, 2023, the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors provide the McKinleyville Municipal Advisory Committee and any of its subcommittees with the support* to seek other sources of funding to assist in the creation of the in-depth initial Feasibility Analysis.

R2: By no later than November 1, 2023, the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors authorize the McKinleyville Municipal Advisory Committee, and any of its subcommittees, to make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors on the scope and specifics of the in-depth Initial Feasibility Analysis. (F1, F2, F3, and F4)

R2 Response:MMAC supports this recommendation to be implemented with the stated timeline.

R3: By no later than November 1, 2023, the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors provide additional staff support to assist the McKinleyville Municipal Advisory Committee in accomplishing the creation of the in-depth Initial Feasibility Analysis. See below regarding suggested funding sources. (FIT F2, F3, and F4)

R3 Response: MMAC supports this recommendation to be implemented with the stated timeline or sooner. Additionally, MMAC acknowledges and thanks Supervisor Madrone, Humboldt County Board of Supervisors, and County staff to prepare location specific financial information and recognizes that further resources and effort will be needed to provide complete information.

R4: By no later than January 1, 2024, the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors create a Request for Proposal to solicit bids from Qualified contractors to conduct an in-depth Initial Feasibility Analysis on the effects and impacts of McKinleyville being incorporated as a city. See below regarding suggested funding sources. (F1, F2, F3, and F4)

R4 Response: MMAC supports this recommendation to be implemented with the stated timeline, and in agreement with LAFCO's requirements for the Final Feasibility Analysis.

R5: By no later than March 1, 2024, the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors enter into a contract with the qualified contractor chosen from the bidding process for the Request for Proposal to conduct an in-depth Initial Feasibility Analysis on the effects and impacts of McKinleyville being incorporated as a city. See below regarding suggested funding sources. (F1, F2, F3, and F4)

R5 Response: MMAC supports this recommendation to be implemented in the stated timeline.

R6: By no later than October 1, 2024, an in-depth Initial Feasibility Analysis on the effects and impacts of McKinleyville being incorporated as a city be completed. See below regarding suggested funding sources. (F1, F2, F3, and F4)

R6 Response: MMAC supports this recommendation to be implemented in the stated timeline.

*Excerpt from the MMAC Rules, Regulations, Procedures for Operation adopted 1-27-2022:

Staffing and Funding

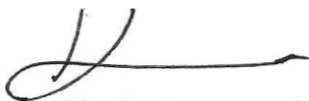
The County will provide the MMAC staff resources for support of the MMAC and its officers. This support includes but is not limited to posting, copying and distribution of agendas, improving and maintaining the MMAC webpage (including IT support). Dedicated funding will be provided to cover materials, supplies, online meeting expenses and expenses related to MMAC hosted special meetings and events. Budgetary commitments of County Staff and resources to the MMAC are at the discretion of the Board of Supervisors and shall be set by the Board of Supervisors in their annual budget process. The Clerk of the Board will record and report staff hours spent on MMAC related work and the MMAC Treasurer will report on their operating funds for this annual review. The MMAC Treasurer will receive training from County staff regarding the processes and procedures necessary for submission of expenditure claims and training for viewing and tracking income, expenditures and status of reimbursements.

County staff will be directed to seek available grant funding to support the committee's efforts.

Respectfully Submitted,



M. Lisa Dugan, Chair
McKinleyville Municipal Advisory Committee



Kevin Jenkins, Chair
McKinleyville Incorporation Exploration Subcommittee