

**WASHINGTON STATE BOUNDARY REVIEW BOARD FOR LEWIS COUNTY NOTICE OF INTENTION**

1. Name of City, Town, or Special Purpose District: **Lewis County Fire Protection District No. 17 (“District 17”)**
2. Action Sought: **Merger into Pierce County Fire Protection District No. 23 (“District 23”)**
3. Reason for seeking action: **This is an administrative merger. Smaller fire agencies throughout Pierce and the State of Washington are partnering together to provide residents with better service and cost efficiencies. District 17 and District 23 are currently operating under a temporary interlocal agreement, which has resulted in better service at a reduced cost to its taxpayers. The agencies share training programs for emergency personnel, administrative positions (fire chief, deputy chief, and a chief administrative officer) and joint departments, including finance, human resources, and IT. Merging would make these service improvements and cost efficiencies permanent. However, if merged, fire and EMS services would be dispatched out of the existing stations.**
4. Briefly describe proposal: **If the Notice of Intention is approved, an election may be held in District 17. If a majority of the voters approve the ballot measure, the merger will be completed on a date mutually agreeable to the governing bodies of both Districts.**
5. Method used to initiate the proposed action: **The proposed merger is governed by RCW 52.06 and has been approved by the governing bodies of both Districts. The District are not adjoining, but are located within a reasonable proximity of one another, and are near enough to each other so that governance, management, and service can be delivered effectively pursuant to RCW 52.06.010(2).**
6. State statute under which action is sought: **Chapter 52.06 RCW**

**FACTORS THE BOARD MUST CONSIDER**

Please respond to the factors that the Board must consider as outlined in RCW 36.93.170.

**The merger has no apparent impacts on the factors the Board may consider as part of RCW 36.93.170, which is detailed throughout this Notice of Intention and summarized as follows.**

1. **The proposed merger has no impact on the population, density, land uses, growth, or future services. The proposed merger uses existing jurisdictional boundaries to create one larger and more efficient fire district.**
2. **Except for fire and EMS service, the proposed merger has no impact on governmental services. The proposed merger will improve fire and EMS services at a reduced cost for property owners within the fire district’s jurisdiction.**
3. **The proposed merger will have no impact on adjacent areas. The proposed merger serves the mutual economic and social interests of the two fire districts involved in the merger.**

**This is an administrative merger. Fire and EMS services would still be dispatched out of the existing stations.**

**POPULATION AND LAND USE**

1. Please provide the following information:

	<b>District 23</b>	<b>District 17</b>	<b>Merged District</b>
<b>Population (Approx)</b>	1,302	293	1,595
<b>20 -Year Projection</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A

2. What source is the basis for these projections? **Data not available.**

3. Acres of the existing entity: \_\_\_\_\_ Acres of the proposed annexation area: \_\_\_\_\_

	<b>District 23</b>	<b>District 17</b>	<b>Merged District</b>
<b>Territory</b>	62 sq miles 39680 sq acres	8 sq miles 5,120 sq acres	70 sq miles 44,800 sq acres

4. Assessed valuation of existing entity: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ of proposed annexation area: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

	<b>District 23</b>	<b>District 17</b>	<b>Merged District</b>
<b>Assessed Value (2024)</b>	\$317,681,524	\$103,583,575	\$421,265,099

5. Existing land use of the proposed annexation area: **Residential, recreational, and parks.**

6. Existing land use of the area surrounding the proposal: **Same.**

7. Existing Comprehensive Plan designation for the proposed annexation area: **None.**

8. Comprehensive Plan designation for the area surrounding the proposal: **None.**

9. Existing zoning designation for the proposed annexation area: **District 17 is zoned Rural Residential 2, Rural 20, and Forrest Land. District 23 is zoned Rural 10, Rural 40, Tourist Commercial, Village Residential, Village Center, Agricultural Resource Land, Forrest Land. The proposed merger of District 17 into District 23 has no direct impact on the land use.**

10. Zoning designation for the area surrounding the proposal: **Same.**

11. If the proposal is approved, will any changes to the zoning or the Comprehensive Plan designations be required within the next 18 months? **No.**

12. Has any portion of this area been previously reviewed by the Boundary Review Board? **No.**

List BRB File Nos. **Not Applicable.**

**MUNICIPAL SERVICES**

Please provide the following information about the provision of services to the area.

## Water Service

1. Existing provider of water **The current major service providers include Elbe Water District, Park Junction, and Ashford Water District.**
2. Will the provider of water to the site change if the proposal is approved? **No**
3. If the provider of water is proposed to be changed, is the annexation area included within their capital facilities plan? **Not applicable.**
3. Please describe the water source (i.e. water rights and wells) that will serve the annexation area. **Not applicable.**
4. Will additional water rights be necessary to serve the area? **No.**
5. Please describe the water mains that serve the property, including their location and diameter (attach a map if necessary). **Not applicable.**
6. Will additional water line capacity be necessary to accommodate the proposed annexation? **No.**
7. Will additional water pressure be necessary to serve the area? **No.**
8. Please describe any reservoirs/water storage facilities that will serve the site. **Not applicable.**
9. Will additional storage capacity be necessary to accommodate the proposed annexation? **No.**
11. If additional capacity will be required to serve the annexation area (for water rights, water distribution, water storage, additional pressure, or other issues), please describe how and when these capacity increases will be provided. **Not applicable.**

## Sewer Service

1. Existing provider of wastewater treatment **There are no current service providers.**
2. Will the provider of wastewater treatment for the annexation area change if the proposal is approved? **No.**
3. If the provider of wastewater treatment is proposed to be changed, is the annexation area included within their capital facilities plan? **Not applicable.**
4. Please describe the capacity of the existing wastewater treatment plant and the amount of wastewater anticipated to be generated by the annexation area (at present and at build out). **Not applicable.**
5. Will any additional wastewater treatment plant capacity be needed to accommodate the proposed annexation? **No.**
6. Please describe the wastewater treatment lines that serve the property, including the location and diameter (attach a map if necessary). **Not applicable.**
7. Will additional wastewater treatment lines be necessary to accommodate the proposed annexation? **No.**

8. Will a lift station be required to serve the proposed annexation area? **No.**

9. If additional capacity will be required to serve the annexation area (for wastewater treatment lines, plants or lift stations), please describe how and when these capacity increases will be provided. **Not applicable.**

### **Fire Service**

1. Existing provider of fire service **The properties within both fire districts already receive urban level of services. The merger of District 17 into District 23 would consolidate those services. Fire service would likely improve.**

2. Will the provider of fire service for the annexation area change if the proposal is approved? **No.**

3. Please describe the nearest station that will serve the proposed annexation area (and provide the station address).

**Station 85 – 50602 Mountain Highway E, Eatonville, WA**

**Station 86 – 18109 541st St. E, Elbe, WA**

**Station 87 – 29815 State Route 706 E, Ashford, WA**

**Station 88 – 136 Osborn Road, Ashford, WA**

4. Will the response time increase or decrease as a result of the proposed annexation? **No.**

5. Will the annexing agency require additional fire personnel or equipment to serve the proposed annexation area? **No.**

6. If additional personnel or equipment will be required to deliver fire service, please describe how and when these capacity increases will be provided. **Not applicable.**

### **Police Service**

1. Existing provider of police service **Lewis County Sheriff's Office and Pierce County Sheriff's Office**

2. Will the provider of police service for the annexation area change if the proposal is approved? **No.**

3. Will the annexing agency require additional police personnel or equipment to serve the proposed annexation area? **No.**

4. If additional personnel or equipment will be required to provide police service, please describe how and when these capacity increases will be provided. **Not applicable.**

### **ECONOMIC IMPACT**

Please explain the financial impacts that are anticipated from the proposal (attach additional sheets and justification if necessary)

**Both fire districts receive revenue from the same two primary sources: levies and fire benefit charges.**

- For tax year 2024, District 23 has a fire / expense levy of 1.2023 per \$1,000 and an EMS levy of \$0.3845 per \$1,000.
- For tax year 2025, District 17 approved a fire / expense levy of 1.000 per \$1,000 and an EMS levy of \$0.5000 per \$1,000.
- The fire districts are at or below their maximum levy rates.

If merged, the merged fire district would experience no short-term loss in revenue. The merged fire district would have capacity in both its levy and fire benefit charges to increase revenue over time, if needed.

The merger of District 17 into District 23 is expected to reduce expenditure due to increased efficiency of scale. The extent of the savings is variable depending on the assumptions made.

## LOCAL REVIEW

1. Describe the environmental review process completed for the proposed action. Attach a copy of the SEPA checklist and determination if complete.

**Lewis County Fire Protection District's Responsible SEPA Official issued a SEPA Checklist and a Determination of Non-Significance. The District must then give at least 14 days' notice as follows:**

- Publishing the notice in a newspaper of general circulation in Lewis County, Washington as designated by the Commission;
- Providing notice in the same manner as required for the announcement of regular District Commission meetings;
- Furnishing notice to anyone who has specifically requested to be notified about the particular proposal or about the type of proposal being considered;
- Posting a notice on the main bulletin board, if any, at the District's administrative offices; and
- Filing the documents required by WAC 197-11-508 with the State Department of Ecology for publication of notice in the SEPA REGISTER.

2. Describe how the proposal is consistent with the Growth Management Act (RCW 36.70A) (attach additional sheets if necessary).

**This proposed merger is in conformance with the Growth Management Act, specifically RCW 36.70A.020(12), which states the following:**

***Ensure that those public facilities and services necessary to support development shall be adequate to serve the development at the time the development is available for occupancy and use without decreasing current service levels below locally established minimum standards.***

**RCW 36. 70A.030 defines the following:**

***"Public services" include fire protection and suppression, law enforcement, public health, education, recreation, environmental protection, and other governmental services.***

***"Rural governmental services" or "rural services" include those public services and public facilities historically and typically delivered at an intensity usually found in rural areas, and may include domestic water systems, fire and police protection services, transportation***

*and public transit services, and other public utilities associated with rural development and normally not associated with urban areas. Rural services do not include storm or sanitary sewers, except as otherwise authorized by RCW 36.70.110(4).*

The merger of District 17 into District 23 has no apparent impact on the growth. The properties within both fire districts. The proposed merger does not expand or contract service areas of the two combined jurisdictions.

3. Describe the outreach conducted with affected jurisdictions. Please provide a copy of any notices to the jurisdictions. **None.**

4. Describe the effect of the proposal on adjacent areas. **None.**

### **OBJECTIVES OF THE BOUNDARY REVIEW BOARD**

Please describe how the proposed annexation meets (or does not meet) the objectives of RCW 36.93.180 (attach additional sheets if necessary).

1. Preservation of natural neighborhoods and communities. **The proposed merger has no impact on neighborhoods or communities.**

2. Use of physical boundaries, including but not limited to bodies of water, highways and land contours. **This proposed merger will use the existing boundaries of the Districts.**

3. Creation and preservation of logical service areas. **This proposed merger will not change service areas, but will change the provider of services in the District 17 area.**

4. Prevention of abnormally irregular boundaries. **This proposed merger will not create any abnormally irregular boundaries.**

5. Discouragement of multiple incorporations of small cities and encouragement of incorporation of cities in excess of ten thousand population in heavily populated urban areas. **Not applicable.**

6. Dissolution of inactive special purpose districts. **Not applicable.**

7. Adjustment of impractical boundaries. **Not applicable.**

8. Incorporation as cities or towns or annexation to cities and towns of unincorporated areas which are urban in character. **Not applicable.**

9. Protection of agricultural and rural lands which are designated for long-term productive agricultural and resource use by a comprehensive plan adopted by the county legislative authority. **The proposed merger will include rural lands, but will have no direct impact on these lands.**

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I certify that the above is true and accurate and that I am an official or employee of the governmental jurisdiction seeking boundary change action or the proponent for the incorporation or formation.

LEWIS COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 17

*Matt Medford*

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Date: 4 October 2024