

To Whom It May Concern:

After reviewing the Hoonah Borough Petition, we believe that Elfin Cove should not be incorporated in the borough. It is clear us that the petitioners do not have a clear understanding of Elfin Cove and that incorporating Elfin Cove in the borough is not in Elfin Cove's best interest. Several points made in the proposal led us to this conclusion.

"Promotion of equal rights, opportunities, protections, and obligations among all Alaskans. 47 Alaskans who have never been part of any municipality will now be part of and represented by a local government."

Elfin Cove does not need to be part of the Hoonah Borough to be represented by local government and to successfully function. Elfin Cove is a non-profit community and has local government to provide functional structure. Elfin Cove has been able to function to maintain the community, including working with State Agency to repair and upkeep boardwalks and docks as well as provide needed dredging. Elfin Cove successfully operates a fuel dock and maintains amenities that provide satisfaction for the daily life of community members including access to medical service, a post office, fuel, electricity, water, recreation area, etc.

"Promotes maximum local self-government with a minimum of local government units."

As stated above, Elfin Cove does not need to be a part of the Hoonah Borough to promote maximum local self-government. Elfin Cove has local government and by including them in the Hoonah Borough their current successful functioning would get set aside as well as the important affairs to be addressed in Elfin Cove.

"Interrelated and integrated". Hoonah claims to be the "hub of this region, and even the proposed borough's most remote residents depend on Hoonah for supplies, support and transportation."

This is a false claim as Elfin Cove rarely, if ever, depend on Hoonah for supplies, transportation, or support. Geographically, Elfin Cove and Hoonah are over 40 miles apart and to realistically provide this type of support would take hours and rarely occurs amongst the residents of Elfin Cove. Most supplies that Elfin Cove receives are from Juneau, which are received by seaplane or boat. There is no current direct transportation between Hoonah and Elfin Cove. Travel by seaplane

would mean to first travel to Juneau. There is no ferry transportation between the two. Any medical support Elfin Cove needs is provided by Juneau or the Coast Guard, and fuel is locally supported.

“Ancestral Lands”

I choose to not respond to this point.

Hoonah makes the claim that they are a regional hub:

As stated above, connection between Hoonah and Elfin Cove residents rarely occurs. Any immediate needs including fuel, medical treatment, supplies, etc. is addressed locally in Elfin Cove or in Juneau. There is no direct travel between Hoonah and Elfin Cove and no roads that connect the communities. While Hoonah may have amenities to call themselves a “hub” it is not used by the community of Elfin Cove.

“Communications”

The communication in Elfin Cove will not change due to the proposed borough. AT&T services are available to community members and this communication provides the ability for members to communicate needs to outlying areas. Juneau is a major area of communication interest since, as stated above, that is where the majority of support comes for Elfin Cove.

“Adequate Population”

Elfin Cove has demonstrated its ability to successfully function, the current population is adequate for its needs. The support the larger populated Hoonah claims to provide is not in Elfin Coves best interest. While Hoonah may have the adequate number of individuals to say they are “sufficiently large and stable” it does not consider tourism season. Hoonah’s population fluctuates during the summer season and many of its residents will not be concerned with the proposed borough.

“Human and Financial Resources to provide essential borough services on an efficient, cost effective level”.

While Hoonah can provide Human and Financial Resources, this is simply not something that would provide much support for those in Elfin Cove. Tax dollars paid

by the Elfin Cove residents are not expected to be used to help the community of Elfin Cove but instead to provide continual improvements and increased revenue for Hoonah.

“Natural Geography”

As stated above, geographically, Elfin Cove and Hoonah are over 40 miles apart and to realistically provide this type of support would take hours and rarely occurs amongst the residents of Elfin Cove. Most support that Elfin Cove receives are from Juneau, which are received by seaplane or boat.

“Western Boundary extending into the Gulf of Alaska”

Geographical distance and lack of access to these areas would simply make extending into the Gulf of Alaska increasingly difficult to achieve.

With this in mind, we strongly believe that Elfin Cove should not be included in the proposed borough.

Signed,

Jeremy Anderson
Breanna Anderson

Elfin Cove Community Members