

# LAFCO

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## **Santa Barbara Local Agency Formation Commission**

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July 3, 2003 (Agenda)

Local Agency Formation Commission

105 East Anapamu Street

Santa Barbara CA 93101

### **Grand Jury Report on Casmalia**

Dear Members of the Commission:

#### RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Commission provide direction to the staff regarding an appropriate response to the County Grand Jury report on Casmalia.

#### DISCUSSION

The 2002-03 Santa Barbara County Grand Jury has issued the enclosed report on Casmalia. The Commission is required to respond by September 9, 2003.

A portion of the report addresses the provision of potable water to the community of Casmalia and the difficulties that are being experienced in maintaining the current system of water supply.

Finding 1 states that if Casmite, the current water provider, discontinues its operations a new water system will be needed. Recommendation 1 is that the Casmalia Community Services District meet with LAFCO and the Board of Supervisors to consider dissolving the District and establishing a County-governed special district to serve as the water purveyor.

There are a limited number of water connections in Casmalia and therefore a limited base over which to spread the costs of operating the local water system.

The LAFCO staff was involved several months ago with the District, the County and the Vandenberg Village CSD in an effort to improve the operations of the District. Deficiencies in the District's operations were identified and efforts were made to reinvigorate the District Board of Directors and staff.

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It is appropriate for the Commission to cooperate with the District, the County and all other interested agencies in resolving the current difficulties. It may be that forming a County-governed special district to serve the area is the most appropriate outcome, however rather than reach that conclusion initially, the staff suggests a response to the Grand Jury such as the following:

The Santa Barbara LAFCO is familiar with the conditions affecting the community of Casmalia and its potable water system. The Commission and its staff are willing to work with the Casmalia community, including the Community Services District, the County and other local and State agencies to (1) identify the most appropriate governmental alternatives for meeting the community's needs and (2) implementing the option that is selected.

The foregoing is the only portion of the Grand Jury report regarding Casmalia that pertains specifically to the Commission.

Please contact the LAFCO office if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

BOB BRAITMAN  
Executive Officer