

# **CARPINTERIA SANITARY DISTRICT**

## **MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW AND SPHERE OF INFLUENCE UPDATE**

Report to the  
**Santa Barbara Local Agency  
Formation Commission**

November 2012

## 1. INTRODUCTION

This report regarding the Carpinteria Sanitary District was prepared by the Santa Barbara Local Agency Formation Commission (“LAFCO”) in accordance with Section 56430 of the California Government Code. It responds to the requirement that LAFCO conduct a Municipal Service Review (MSR) to study the delivery of municipal services and update spheres of influence.

The MSR evaluates services provided by the District and issues regarding its sphere of influence. The last MSR for this District was prepared in 2005.

This report describes service delivery and related issues for LAFCO to consider and presents determinations as required by law. The decision to approve or disapprove any determinations or policies rests entirely with the Commission.

Written determinations regarding the MSR and sphere of influence update are provided for the Commission’s consideration. This report is an informational document and does not substitute for discretionary decisions that can only be made by the Commission.

This Report is subject to reconsideration and revision as directed by the LAFCO staff or by the Commission during the course of its deliberations.

## 2. MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW

### Description of District

The District was formed in 1928 and operates pursuant to the Sanitary District Act of 1923 (Health & Safety Code, Section 6400 et seq.).

Located in southern Santa Barbara County, on both sides of State Highway 1, it extends from the Rincon Point, including a portion of Ventura County, on the east to Toro Canyon on the west. It encompasses most of the City of Carpinteria and small portions of unincorporated land.

A five-member board of directors, elected at-large, governs the District. A General Manager is responsible for administrative functions. A District organizational chart is included.

The District’s boundaries and sphere of influence are largely coterminous... A map of the District and its sphere is included.

### District Services

The District collects, treats and disposes of wastewater. As of June 30, 2012 it services 4,307 connections, inclusive of 6,114 residential and 477 non-residential units.

## Other Governmental Agencies within the District

Local agencies that overlap the District include the City of Carpinteria, Carpinteria Valley Water District, Carpinteria-Summerland Fire Protection District, County Service Area 11 (Streetlights), County Service Area 32 (Law Enforcement), and the Mosquito and Vector Control District of Santa Barbara County.

### 3. MSR DETERMINATIONS

This report addresses the MSR factors specified in LAFCO's governing statute.

#### **Infrastructure Needs and Deficiencies**

The District's existing wastewater collection and treatment infrastructure is sufficient to accommodate current and known demands. Its 2010–2020 Capital Improvement Program projects about \$11,000,000 programmed for projects related to the treatment plant, pipeline rehabilitation, replacement or relocation and an updated administration building.

#### **Growth and Population Projections**

The District accepts the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments' population growth projections for its planning purposes for the Carpinteria area and based on these projections will have sufficient capacity to accommodate potential connections.

#### **Financing Constraints and Opportunities**

The District receives service charges from its users, a portion of the general property tax and revenues from permit fees. It is reasonable to conclude these revenue sources are sufficient to fund its obligations for service including system improvements.

#### **Cost-Avoidance Opportunities**

There are no obvious cost avoidance opportunities. The most significant costs are related treating and discharging wastewater effluent. Joint training with other local agencies reduces costs and enhances preparations for emergencies.

#### **Opportunities for Rate Restructuring**

There was a rate study in 2010 when a five-year modest fee increase program through 2015-16 was approved following a successful Proposition 218 hearing. There are no other obvious rate restructuring opportunities.

#### **Opportunities for Shared Facilities**

The sewer collection and treatment facilities are designed for the service area and do not offer opportunities for shared facilities.

## **Government Structure Options**

LAFCO's enabling legislation indicates multipurpose governmental agencies, especially in urban areas, may be the best mechanism to account for community needs, financial resources and service priorities.

While the District has not identified any government structure options, it may be that a legal or functional consolidation with other Carpinteria based local agencies may result in greater overall economy or efficiency in providing services to the community.

## **Management Efficiencies**

The District exhibits the characteristics of a well-managed agency operating efficiently and serving its residents and customers effectively.

## **Local Accountability and Governance**

The District is a relatively compact government, which enhances the ability of the public to participate in its activities. The Board of Directors is elected by and accountable to the voters who reside in the District. The District has an informational website and distributes newsletters to its customers.

## **4. SPHERE OF INFLUENCE REVIEW AND UPDATE**

### Description of Current Sphere of Influence

The District's boundaries and sphere of influence are largely coterminous. A map of the District and its sphere are included.

### No Proposed Sphere Changes

In response to the MSR Request for Information, the District responded that its boundary is not correct at that time.

The MSR prepared in 2005 noted the District was evaluating service to several communities along the shore that were using on-site septic disposal systems, including the Rincon Point, Sandyland Cove, Sand Point Road, Padaro Land and Beach Club Road areas.

Since that last MSR the District has responded to requests for sewer service for these beach communities, which have since been annexed into the District boundaries and service area.

The District boundary has "islands," including public schools, which would appear to be more logically located within the District.

### Sphere of Influence Determinations

Inasmuch as no changes in the sphere of influence are proposed at this time it is not necessary for the Commission to adopt or approve any determinations.

## 5. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & REFERENCES

The Santa Barbara LAFCO staff prepared this Municipal Service Review. Responsibility for any errors or omissions rests with those who prepared the report.

The Carpinteria Sanitary District provided the basic information upon which the evaluation is based. District General Manager Craig Murray was instrumental in providing data.

## 6. RECOMMENDATIONS

In consideration of information gathered and evaluated during the Municipal Service Review it is recommended the Commission affirm the current Sphere of Influence and that consideration for expansion not be considered until an application is received.

RESOLUTION OF THE  
SANTA BARBARA LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION  
MAKING WRITTEN DETERMINATIONS AND CEQA FINDINGS  
AND UPDATING THE SPHERE OF INFLUENCE OF THE  
CARPINTERIA SANITARY DISTRICT

WHEREAS, a Sphere of Influence is defined as a plan for the probable physical boundaries and service area of a city or special district as adopted by the Commission, and

WHEREAS, the Commission is required to review and update, as necessary, adopted spheres of influence not less than once every five years, and

WHEREAS, the Commission is directed to conduct a review of municipal services not later than the time it considers an action to establish or update a sphere of influence, and

WHEREAS, the Commission conducted a municipal service review and adopted the Sphere of Influence of the Carpinteria Sanitary District on November 3, 2005, and

WHEREAS, in the manner required by law, the Executive Officer has given notice of a public hearing by the Commission to review and update the sphere of influence; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has heard, discussed and considered all relevant evidence, including but not limited to, the Executive Officer report, any environmental documents, applicable general and specific plans and all testimony, correspondence and exhibits received during the public hearing, all of which are included herein by reference.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED, DETERMINED AND ORDERED as follows:

1. The project before the Commission is an update of the sphere of influence of the Carpinteria Sanitary District.
2. The Commission finds this update to be exempt from CEQA because no change in the sphere of influence is being adopted.
3. The sphere of influence is hereby updated and no change is made to the boundaries of the sphere as shown on the attached map labeled "Exhibit A."
4. This resolution was adopted on November 1, 2012 and is effective on the date signed by the Chair.

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAINS:

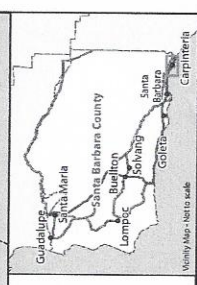
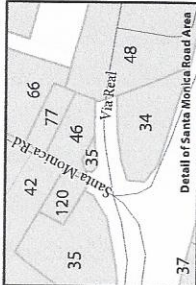
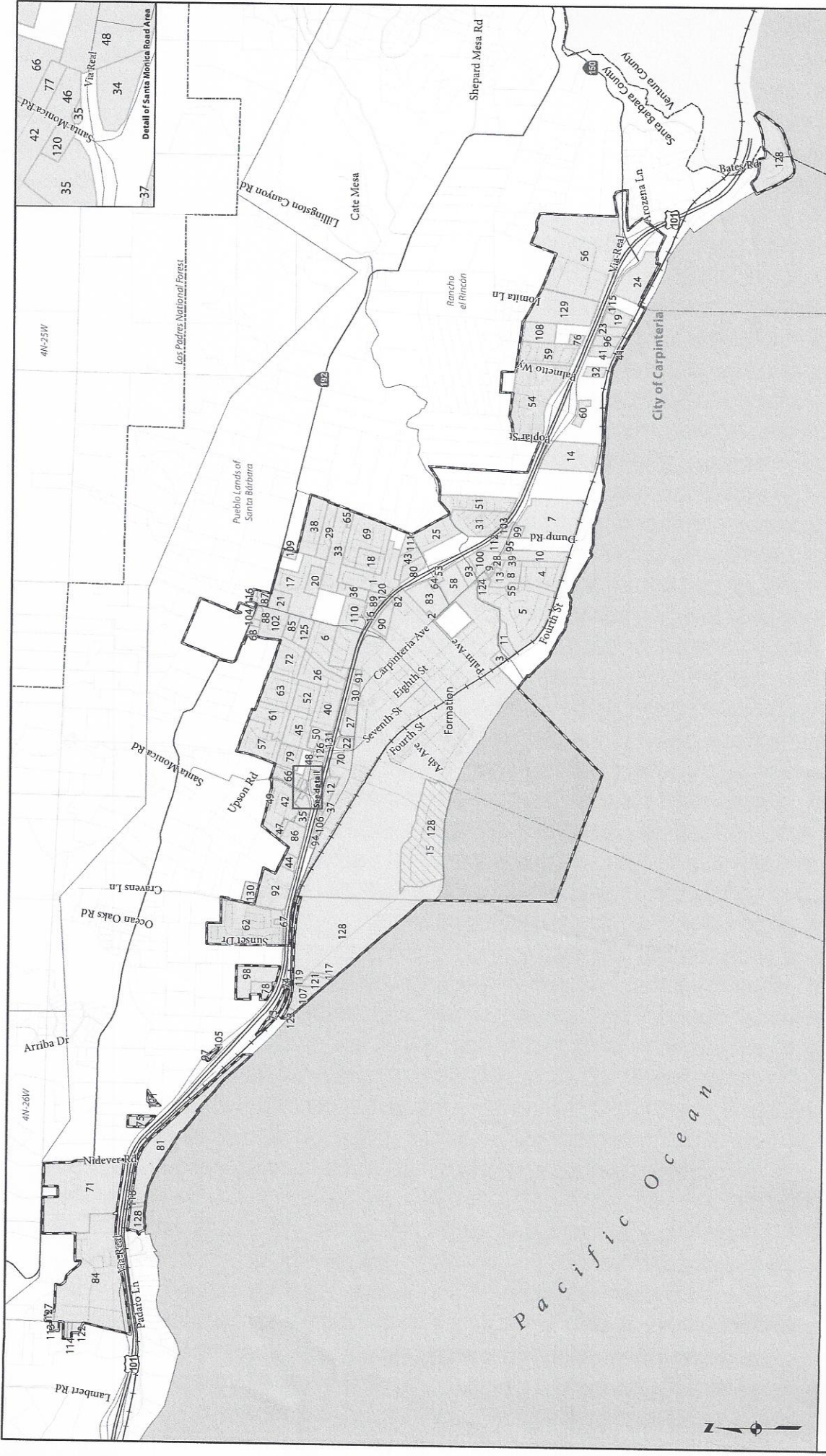
ABSENT:

Dated: March 1, 2012

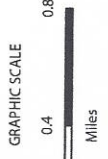
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Chair, Santa Barbara Local Agency Formation Commission

ATTEST

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Bob Braitman, Executive Officer, Santa Barbara Local Agency Formation Commission



- Legend**
- Freeways
  - Highways
  - Roads
  - Railroads
  - Parcels
  - Sections
  - City of Carpinteria
  - County Boundary
  - Los Padres National Forest
  - Ranchos and Townships
  - Sphere of Influence
  - Formation
  - Annexation
  - Detachment



## Carpinteria Sanitary District

Compiled by the Office of the County Surveyor in January of 2012. Formed by Resolution of the County Board of Supervisors, 3/72/1928. Last Action: 131, Delta Court, LAFCO 10-03, 11/22/2010. Sphere: 9/22/2004. See Boundary Activity Table at <http://www.countyofsb.org/pwd/pwsurveyor.aspx?id=23260>.

**NOTICE OF DISCLAIMER:** This data is for reference only. Although every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of information, errors and conditions originating from physical sources used to develop the database may be reflected in this data. Santa Barbara County shall not be liable for any errors, omissions, or damages that result from inappropriate use of this document. No level of accuracy is claimed for the boundary lines shown hereon and they should not be used to obtain coordinate values, bearings or distances.

