

LAFCO

Santa Barbara Local Agency Formation Commission
105 East Anapamu Street ♦ Santa Barbara CA 93101
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March 2, 2006 (Agenda)

Local Agency Formation Commission
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara CA 93101

Overlap Area – City of Santa Barbara and Goleta Water District

Dear Members of the Commission:

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Commission encourage the City of Santa Barbara and Goleta Water District to submit proposals to resolve the current “overlap” situation by detaching the overlap area from the District and authorizing the City to include the area within its water service area.

DISCUSSION

As a result of governmental decisions made in the past, some customers of the Goleta Water District receive water supplied via pipelines owned and operated by the City of Santa Barbara. As a result, records need to be kept regarding amounts of water served and related financial transfers between agencies. In addition to this bureaucratic expense and difficulty there is confusion wherein water customers literally next to each other or across the street from each other are receiving the same water but from different purveyors and at different rates.

Operational issues are also involved by having two utility agencies working in the same area, requiring increased notifications and, at times, multiple responses by both agencies

The overlap area is unincorporated territory in the Las Positas Valley and Hope/La Cumbre Road area. These properties continue to be within the boundaries of the Goleta Water District and are billed by the District even though they are receiving water through City facilities.

The City, District and LAFCO staffs have been discussing ways to resolve this matter. As a result of these discussions I understand the City and the District staffs have concluded that these areas should be detached from the District, allowing the City to serve those properties as out-of-agency services, since they are not presently within the City.

Once proposals to detach the parcels from the District and authorize the City to provide out-of-agency services have been submitted the matter can be heard by the Commission, with the opportunity for all interested parties to provide their views.

The history of this situation dates from a 1982 agreement between the City and District that was further modified by an amendment to the agreement in 1993. While it is not known whether the detachment of the affected territory entirely alleviates the need for this interagency agreement, it would certainly simplify the situation and provide a more direct and accountable method for supplying water for the area.

It is recommended that the Commission encourage the City and District to continue efforts to resolve this intergovernmental situation by detaching the affected territory from the District and authorizing the City to include this area within its water service area.

Please contact the LAFCO office if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

BOB BRAITMAN
Executive Officer

cc: Jim Armstrong, City Administrator, City of Santa Barbara
Bill Ferguson, Water Supply Planner, City of Santa Barbara
Steve Mack, Water Resources Manager, City of Santa Barbara
Anthony Nisich, Public Works Director, City of Santa Barbara
Kevin Walsh, General Manager, Goleta Water District