

LAFCO

Santa Barbara Local Agency Formation Commission
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May 7, 2026 (Agenda)

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

Confirm Existing Spheres of Influence for the Cities of Buellton, Carpinteria, Guadalupe, Goleta, Lompoc, Santa Barbara, Santa Maria, and Solvang

Dear Members of the Commission:

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Commission accept public testimony adopt the attached resolutions establishing Spheres of Influence for the following Cities:

- City of Buellton
- City of Carpinteria
- City of Guadalupe
- City of Goleta
- City of Lompoc
- City of Santa Barbara
- City of Santa Maria
- City of Solvang

DISCUSSION:

The Commission is required to adopt a sphere of influence for each city and special district at least every five years and, as necessary. On April 2, 2026, the Commission directed staff to update exiting spheres of influence, as necessary for all eight cities. A 21-day notice has been placed in the Santa Maria Times on April 14, 2026.

BACKGROUND:

The Commission has expressed some concerns with various city's spheres of influence, however has directed the reaffirmation of all eight boundaries with a

small addition to City of Santa Barbara. In some cases, tying sphere changes to annexations would assist and in others conditioning cities prepare an annexation plan would help avoid situations, which have existed before, where land is included by LAFCO in a city's sphere with little or no likelihood of being annexed to the city within the foreseeable future. Many existing spheres of influence have remained unchanged for over 30-years with little annexation activity.

Sphere of Influence Determinations

Section 56425 states that in adopting the sphere of influence of each local agency, LAFCO shall prepare a written statement of its determinations in specific areas. The staff proposes that the Commission approve the following determinations in conjunction with approving the sphere:

1. Present and planned land uses in the area, including agricultural and open-space lands.

The present and planned land uses of the County are guided by the General Plans of the County and the eight Cities within the County. The eight incorporated Cities comprise slightly more than 68.5% of the County population and about 2% of the total land area. The Housing Elements for each of the jurisdictions are in compliance with State Housing and Community Development certification. The 6th Housing Element review cycle will run until 2031. Many of the Cities are located within or surrounded by some of the richest agricultural regions in the world. These are located in the Santa Maria Valley, Santa Ynez Valley, Lompoc Valley, and Carpinteria Valley. These Cities include Guadalupe, Santa Maria, Buellton, Solvang, Lompoc, and Carpinteria. Three Cities are located in the South Coast Region: Goleta, Santa Barbara, and Carpinteria. In addition to the strong agricultural economies of the Santa Maria, Santa Ynez and Lompoc Valleys, the South Coast Region is a center of tourism along the Central Coast. It is estimated growth rate of 4.0 percent along South Coast and 9.5 percent countywide. While the South Coast is projected to experience the lowest growth rate, growth through 2050 would be greatest in the City of Goleta with a total increase in population of 7.2 percent. For the eight Cities; growth rates are estimated to be as follows:

- The City of Buellton anticipates growing at a 6.9 percent within the City over the next 8 years. Close to 87% of the parcel acreage is under private ownership with 75% already developed. The undeveloped area consists of 24 vacant parcels that collectively total 19 acres.
- The City of Carpinteria's projected growth rate is about 0.7%. Close to 74% of the parcel acreage is under private ownership with 80% having already been developed. The undeveloped area consists of 44 vacant parcels that collectively total 25 acres with some areas not developable.
- The City of Goleta's projected growth managed based on the maintenance of

service levels and quality of life within the City. Most of the City or 82% of the parcel acreage is under private ownership with 82% having already been developed. The undeveloped area consists of 82 vacant parcels that collectively total 102 acres.

- The City of Guadalupe's projected growth rate is about 1.2%. Close to 90.7% of the parcel acreage is under private ownership with 60% having already been developed. The undeveloped area consists of 49 vacant parcels that collectively total 93 acres.
- The City of Lompoc's projected growth rate is about 0.45%. Close to 41% of the parcel acreage is under private ownership with 74% already been developed and/or improved to date. The undeveloped area consists of 107 vacant parcels that collectively total 325 acres.
- The City of Santa Barbara's projected growth rate is about 0.3%. Close to 42% of the parcel acreage is under private ownership with nearly all or 76% having already been developed. The undeveloped area consists of 443 vacant parcels that collectively total 557 acres.
- The City of Santa Maria's projected growth rate is anticipated to decrease over time, with a projected annual growth rate of 0.9% from 2025 to 2040. Close to 42% of the parcel acreage is under private ownership with approximately 74% having already been developed. The undeveloped area consists of 253 vacant parcels that collectively total 179 acres.
- The City of Solvang's projected growth rate is about 3%. Close to 88% of the parcel acreage is under private ownership with 87% having already been developed. The undeveloped area consists of 63 vacant parcels that collectively total 75 acres.
- The County's growth rate, covering the same period, estimates 9.5 percent growth in the surrounding unincorporated areas.

2. Present and probable need for public facilities and services in the area.

As outlined in five volumes of Municipal Service Reviews from Chapters One and Three, the local agencies anticipating the most population growth are City of Santa Maria and the unincorporated portions of Santa Barbara County in the Orcutt area. The County's Housing Element was certified by the State identifying significant growth potential also exists around the City of Goleta. These Chapters outline the MSR Determination for the present and probable need for services in each area. The five volumes of MSR services covered the following functions: local fire protection, law enforcement, and emergency medical service, water, wastewater, and stormwater service, transportation, parking, street sweeping & beautification, lighting, transit and airport service, parks, open space, library and facility rental service, solid waste, broadband, mosquito and vector control, and healthcare.

3. Present capacity of public facilities and adequacy of public services that the agency provides or is authorized to provide.

The present capacity for public facilities and services varies for each local public agency providing services listed above. The level of service varies according to the service area's needs and available revenues.

The existence of mutual and automatic aid agreements allows neighboring agencies to assist each other in meeting regional needs. The dual response from both a fire truck and an ambulance help to ensure adequate response to medical emergencies, which are the majority of calls forwarded to a now central cooperative dispatch center. Most agencies are currently able to provide adequate water and wastewater services to their respected area. Water supplies and WWTP's are considered in good operating condition and require no major rehabilitation in the near future, with the exception of Lompoc plant located at 1801 W Central Ave, Solvang plant located at 101 South Alisal Road, each were evaluated as fair condition. There is a clear and present need for coordination of transportation services within the existing service areas, along with balancing the VMT and using a viable approach to accommodating growth and simultaneously emission targets relying on a land use solution that addresses jobs/housing balance using an infill approach oriented around transit services. Most agencies are currently able to provide adequate transportation, parking, street sweeping & beautification, lighting, transit and airport services to their respected area. The Pavement Condition Index (PCI) is listed on page 29 of the 2023 MSR shows the highest rating is 79. Measure A, a 30-year (2010-2040), ½ cent local sales tax for transportation for both named and ongoing projects for each northern and southern Santa Barbara County. Most agencies are currently able to provide adequate parks, recreation, open space, library, and facility rental services to their respected area. The NPR per capita ratio is listed on page 18 of the 2024 MSR shows the range of ratio between 0.31 and 20.6. Many communities have established a standard of 4.7-acres per 1,000 per population. The communities of Guadalupe, represent a deficit in parkland needs. The partnership lead by Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG), is continuing its Regional Broadband work to meet the needs of the county. This includes designing broadband infrastructure that results in middle-mile networks and last-mile priorities that interconnect communities and households, to increase capacity, redundancy, and resiliency for disaster preparedness and to encourage industry competition. Each City is currently able to provide adequate solid waste services. The City of Santa Barbara also provides adequate waterfront/harbor and housing mediation services. The City of Lompoc is the only City to also provide electrical service directly from City.

4. Existence of any social or economic communities of interest in the area if the commission determines that they are relevant to the agency.

The Sphere areas would rely on the nearest agency for customers and employees if commercial development occurs. Where residential development is proposed, the agency provides places for shopping and services for the people living in those areas.

Areas to recreate, schools, places of worship and cultural events would also be available to the areas in the Sphere of Influence that include development. Each place or area that is served by a City has a unique mix of social and economic communities of interest. The agencies provide services to these communities of interest that make up the fabric of the Communities. The agency may also gain sales and property taxes advantages when these areas are annexed. The area residents also have an economic interest in the services provided as the agencies are funded through a portion of the one-percent property tax. The SOI update will not affect the existence of any social or economic communities of interest in the areas that are relevant to the agencies.

5. Present and probable need for public facilities and services of Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities.

Based on the criteria set forth by SB 244, staff's analysis indicates that the communities of Casmalia, Cuyama, New Cuyama, Sisquoc, Guadalupe, Garey, Devon, Tanglewood, Lompoc, portions of Goleta, Santa Maria, Santa Barbara, and Isla Vista were identified as qualifying as disadvantaged communities. There are no DUCs within or contiguous to the agencies where SOI expansion is recommended.

Environmental Documentation:

Because no change to the sphere of influence is being adopted for seven of the cities, and adopting a sphere coterminous with the existing boundaries for the Cities of Buellton, Guadalupe, Goleta would have insignificant environmental impacts. Reaffirming the Cities of Carpinteria, Santa Maria and Solvang staff has determined these updates will also be exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to CEQA Guidelines 15378(b)(5). For the City of Santa Barbara, a small area is being added to the existing sphere of influence, this update to be exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to CEQA Guidelines 15301, 15303, 15311, and 15315.

ALTERNATIVES FOR COMMISSION ACTION

After consideration of this report and any testimony or additional materials that are submitted, the Commission should consider taking one of the following options:

OPTION 1 – ADOPT the Resolutions to reaffirm and condition the Cities of Buellton, Carpinteria, Guadalupe, Goleta, Lompoc, Santa Maria, Solvang, and amend Santa Barbara spheres of influence, as submitted.

OPTION 2 –DENY the proposed resolutions and direct staff to return with amended spheres of influences for ant of the eight cities.

OPTION 3 - CONTINUE consideration of the city's spheres of influence to a future meeting and provide direction to staff, as needed.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Approve **OPTION 1.**



Mike Prater
Executive Officer
LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

Attachments:

- Attachment A: City of Buellton Resolution
- Attachment B: City of Carpinteria Resolution
- Attachment C: City of Guadalupe Resolution
- Attachment D: City of Goleta Resolution
- Attachment E: City of Lompoc Resolution
- Attachment F: City of Santa Barbara Resolution
- Attachment G: City of Santa Maria Resolution
- Attachment H: City of Solvang Resolution
- Attachment I: Public Comments
- Attachment J: Notice of Exemption

RESOLUTION OF THE SANTA BARBARA COUNTY LOCAL AGENCY
FORMATION COMMISSION MAKING WRITTEN DETERMINATION AND CEQA
FINDINGS AND REAFFIRMING THE SPHERE OF INFLUENCE FOR THE CITY
OF BUELLTON

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 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 municipal service reviews and last adopted a Sphere of Influence for the City of Buellton on January 16, 2016, and

WHEREAS, in the manner required by law, staff has given notice of the 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, and environmental documents, applicable general and specific, plans and all testimony, correspondence and exhibits received during the public hearing, all of which are included hearing by reference,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED DETERMINED AND ORDERED by the Commission as follows:

- (1) The project before the Commission is an update of the sphere of influence for the City of Buellton;
- (2) The Commission finds this update to be exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to CEQA Guidelines 15378(b)(5) because no change of the sphere of influence is being adopted.
- (3) The sphere of influence is hereby updated and no change is made to the map attached as Exhibit A.
- (4) The Commission finds under Government Code §56425(e) and §56430(e) are incorporated by reference based on the determinations made under Chapters One and Chapters Two from the following service reviews: 2021 Municipal Service Reviews providing Fire Protection, Law Enforcement, Safety & Crime and Emergency Medical Services, 2022 Municipal Service Reviews providing Water, Wastewater, Recycled

Water and Stormwater Services, 2023 Municipal Service Reviews providing Transportation, Parking, Street Sweeping & Beautification, Lighting, Transit, and Airport Services, 2024 Municipal Service Reviews providing Parks, Recreation, Open Space, Library, and Facility Rental Services, 2025 Municipal Service Reviews providing Healthcare, Vector Control, Municipal Improvement, Harbor, Cemetery and Other Services.

This resolution is hereby adopted this 7th day of May, 2026 in Santa Barbara, California and is effective on the date signed by the Chair.

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

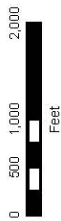
Santa Barbara County Local Agency
Formation Commission

By: _____
Chair, Stark

Date: _____

ATTEST:

Ila Fennell, Commission Clerk
Santa Barbara County
Local Agency Formation Commission



GRAPHIC SCALE

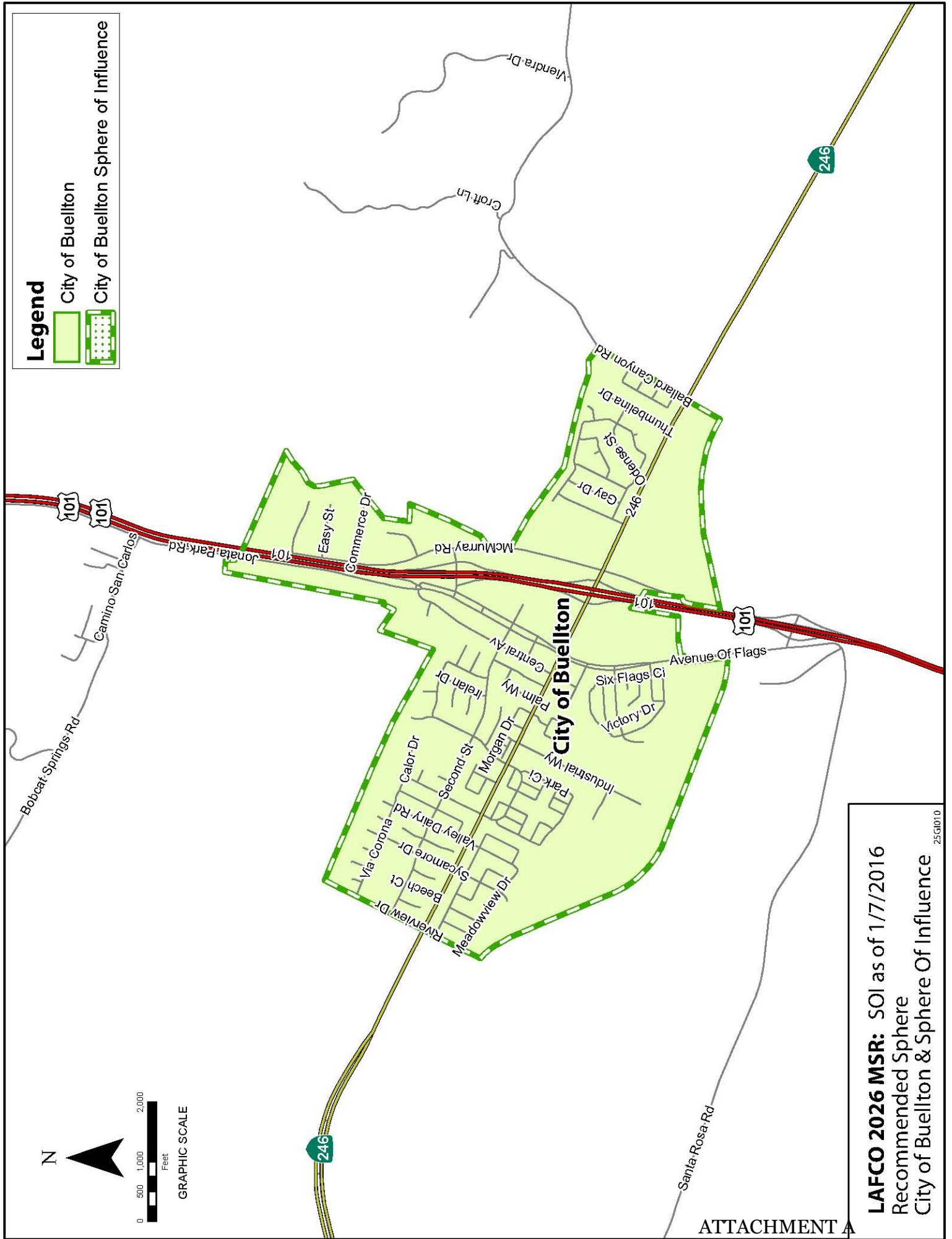
Legend



City of Buellton



City of Buellton Sphere of Influence



LAFCO 2026 MSR: SOI as of 1/7/2016
Recommended Sphere
City of Buellton & Sphere Of Influence

25.G101.0

LAFCO 26-05

RESOLUTION OF THE SANTA BARBARA COUNTY LOCAL AGENCY
FORMATION COMMISSION MAKING WRITTEN DETERMINATION AND CEQA
FINDINGS AND REAFFIRMING THE SPHERE OF INFLUENCE FOR THE CITY
OF CARPINTERIA

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 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 municipal service reviews and last adopted a Sphere of Influence for the City of Carpinteria on February 4, 2016, and

WHEREAS, in the manner required by law, staff has given notice of the 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, and environmental documents, applicable general and specific, plans and all testimony, correspondence and exhibits received during the public hearing, all of which are included hearing by reference,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED DETERMINED AND ORDERED by the Commission as follows:

- (1) The project before the Commission is an update of the sphere of influence for the City of Carpinteria;
- (2) The Commission finds this update to be exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to CEQA Guidelines 15378(b)(5) because no change of the sphere of influence is being adopted.
- (3) The sphere of influence is hereby updated and no change is made to the map attached as Exhibit A.
- (4) The Commission finds under Government Code §56425(e) and §56430(e) are incorporated by reference based on the determinations made under Chapters One and Chapters Two from the following service reviews: 2021 Municipal Service Reviews providing Fire Protection, Law Enforcement, Safety & Crime and Emergency Medical Services, 2022 Municipal Service Reviews providing Water, Wastewater, Recycled

Water and Stormwater Services, 2023 Municipal Service Reviews providing Transportation, Parking, Street Sweeping & Beautification, Lighting, Transit, and Airport Services, 2024 Municipal Service Reviews providing Parks, Recreation, Open Space, Library, and Facility Rental Services, 2025 Municipal Service Reviews providing Healthcare, Vector Control, Municipal Improvement, Harbor, Cemetery and Other Services.

This resolution is hereby adopted this 7th day of May, 2026 in Santa Barbara, California and is effective on the date signed by the Chair.

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

Santa Barbara County Local Agency
Formation Commission

By: _____
Chair, Stark

Date: _____

ATTEST:

Ila Fennell, Commission Clerk
Santa Barbara County
Local Agency Formation Commission



LAFCO 2026 MSR: SOI as of 2/4/2016
 Recommended Sphere
 City of Carpinteria & Sphere Of Influence

25G1010

LAFCO 26-06

RESOLUTION OF THE SANTA BARBARA COUNTY LOCAL AGENCY
FORMATION COMMISSION MAKING WRITTEN DETERMINATION AND CEQA
FINDINGS AND REAFFIRMING THE SPHERE OF INFLUENCE FOR THE CITY
OF GUADALUPE

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 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 municipal service reviews and last adopted a Sphere of Influence for the City of Guadalupe on January 16, 2016, and

WHEREAS, in the manner required by law, staff has given notice of the 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, and environmental documents, applicable general and specific, plans and all testimony, correspondence and exhibits received during the public hearing, all of which are included hearing by reference,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED DETERMINED AND ORDERED by the Commission as follows:

- (1) The project before the Commission is an update of the sphere of influence for the City of Guadalupe;
- (2) The Commission finds this update to be exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to CEQA Guidelines 15378(b)(5) because no change of the sphere of influence is being adopted.
- (3) The sphere of influence is hereby updated and no change is made to the map attached as Exhibit A.
- (4) The Commission finds under Government Code §56425(e) and §56430(e) are incorporated by reference based on the determinations made under Chapters One and Chapters Two from the following service reviews: 2021 Municipal Service Reviews providing Fire Protection, Law Enforcement, Safety & Crime and Emergency Medical Services, 2022 Municipal Service Reviews providing Water, Wastewater, Recycled

Water and Stormwater Services, 2023 Municipal Service Reviews providing Transportation, Parking, Street Sweeping & Beautification, Lighting, Transit, and Airport Services, 2024 Municipal Service Reviews providing Parks, Recreation, Open Space, Library, and Facility Rental Services, 2025 Municipal Service Reviews providing Healthcare, Vector Control, Municipal Improvement, Harbor, Cemetery and Other Services.

This resolution is hereby adopted this 7th day of May, 2026 in Santa Barbara, California and is effective on the date signed by the Chair.

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

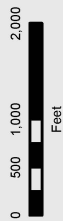
Santa Barbara County Local Agency
Formation Commission

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Chair, Stark

Date: _____

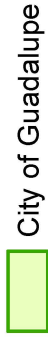
ATTEST:

Ila Fennell, Commission Clerk
Santa Barbara County
Local Agency Formation Commission



GRAPHIC SCALE

Legend

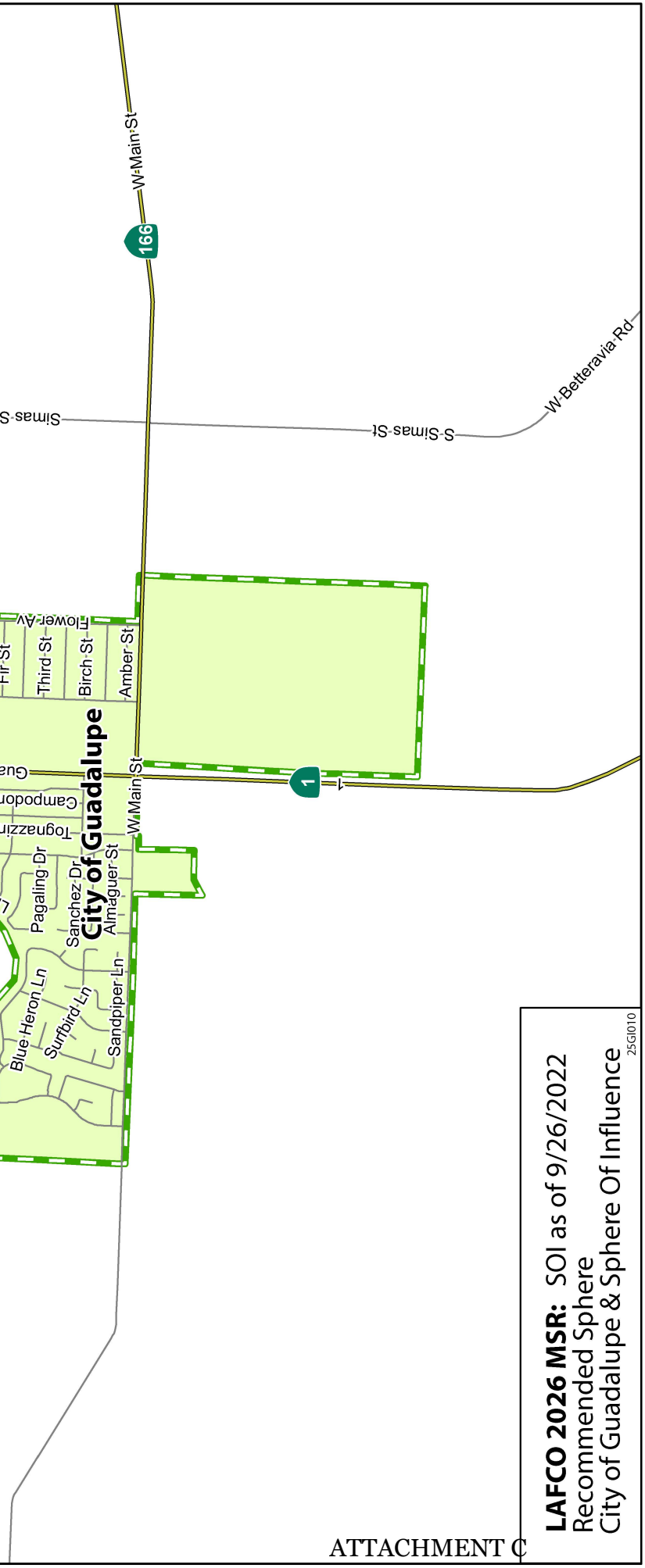


City of Guadalupe



City of Guadalupe Sphere of Influence

San Luis Obispo County
Santa Barbara County



City of Guadalupe

LAFCO 2026 MSR: SOI as of 9/26/2022
Recommended Sphere
City of Guadalupe & Sphere Of Influence

25G010

RESOLUTION OF THE SANTA BARBARA COUNTY LOCAL AGENCY
FORMATION COMMISSION MAKING WRITTEN DETERMINATION AND CEQA
FINDINGS AND REAFFIRMING THE SPHERE OF INFLUENCE FOR THE CITY
OF GOELTA

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 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 municipal service reviews and last adopted a Sphere of Influence for the City of Goleta on March 5, 2009, and

WHEREAS, in the manner required by law, staff has given notice of the 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, and environmental documents, applicable general and specific, plans and all testimony, correspondence and exhibits received during the public hearing, all of which are included hearing by reference,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED DETERMINED AND ORDERED by the Commission as follows:

- (1) The project before the Commission is an update of the sphere of influence for the City of Goleta;
- (2) The Commission finds this update to be exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to CEQA Guidelines 15378(b)(5) because no change of the sphere of influence is being adopted.
- (3) The sphere of influence is hereby updated and no change is made to the map attached as Exhibit A.
- (4) The Commission finds under Government Code §56425(e) and §56430(e) are incorporated by reference based on the determinations made under Chapters One and Chapters Two from the following service reviews: 2021 Municipal Service Reviews providing Fire Protection, Law Enforcement, Safety & Crime and Emergency Medical Services, 2022 Municipal Service Reviews providing Water, Wastewater, Recycled

Water and Stormwater Services, 2023 Municipal Service Reviews providing Transportation, Parking, Street Sweeping & Beautification, Lighting, Transit, and Airport Services, 2024 Municipal Service Reviews providing Parks, Recreation, Open Space, Library, and Facility Rental Services, 2025 Municipal Service Reviews providing Healthcare, Vector Control, Municipal Improvement, Harbor, Cemetery and Other Services.

This resolution is hereby adopted this 7th day of May, 2026 in Santa Barbara, California and is effective on the date signed by the Chair.

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

Santa Barbara County Local Agency
Formation Commission

By: _____
Chair, Stark

Date: _____

ATTEST:

Ila Fennell, Commission Clerk
Santa Barbara County
Local Agency Formation Commission

RESOLUTION OF THE SANTA BARBARA COUNTY LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION
COMMISSION MAKING WRITTEN DETERMINATION AND CEQA FINDINGS AND
REAFFIRMING THE SPHERE OF INFLUENCE FOR THE CITY OF LOMPOC

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 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 municipal service reviews and last adopted a Sphere of Influence for the City of Lompoc on January 16, 2016, and

WHEREAS, in the manner required by law, staff has given notice of the 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, and environmental documents, applicable general and specific, plans and all testimony, correspondence and exhibits received during the public hearing, all of which are included hearing by reference,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED DETERMINED AND ORDERED by the Commission as follows:

- (1) The project before the Commission is an update of the sphere of influence for the City of Lompoc;
- (2) The Commission finds this update to be exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to CEQA Guidelines 15378(b)(5) because no change of the sphere of influence is being adopted.
- (3) The sphere of influence is hereby updated and no change is made to the map attached as Exhibit A; and.
- (4) The sphere of influence is conditioned such that the City shall develop an annexation plan by or before their next cycle of sphere of influence adoption. If no plan is submitted prior to their sphere of influence adoption cycle (January 2031), then the Commission may consider reducing the sphere boundary to better reflect the City's future growth.
- (5) The Commission finds under Government Code §56425(e) and §56430(e) are

incorporated by reference based on the determinations made under Chapters One and Chapters Two from the following service reviews: 2021 Municipal Service Reviews providing Fire Protection, Law Enforcement, Safety & Crime and Emergency Medical Services, 2022 Municipal Service Reviews providing Water, Wastewater, Recycled Water and Stormwater Services, 2023 Municipal Service Reviews providing Transportation, Parking, Street Sweeping & Beautification, Lighting, Transit, and Airport Services, 2024 Municipal Service Reviews providing Parks, Recreation, Open Space, Library, and Facility Rental Services, 2025 Municipal Service Reviews providing Healthcare, Vector Control, Municipal Improvement, Harbor, Cemetery and Other Services.

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AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

Santa Barbara County Local Agency
Formation Commission

By: _____
Chair, Stark

Date: _____

ATTEST:

Ila Fennell, Commission Clerk
Santa Barbara County
Local Agency Formation Commission

RESOLUTION OF THE SANTA BARBARA COUNTY LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION
COMMISSION MAKING WRITTEN DETERMINATION AND CEQA FINDINGS AND
REAFFIRMING AND AMENDING THE SPHERE OF INFLUENCE FOR THE CITY OF
SANTA BARBARA

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 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 municipal service reviews and last adopted a Sphere of Influence for the City of Santa Barbara on January 16, 2016, and

WHEREAS, in the manner required by law, staff has given notice of the 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, and environmental documents, applicable general and specific, plans and all testimony, correspondence and exhibits received during the public hearing, all of which are included hearing by reference,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED DETERMINED AND ORDERED by the Commission as follows:

- (1) The project before the Commission is an update of the sphere of influence the City of Santa Barbara;
- (2) The Commission finds this update to be exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to CEQA Guidelines 15301, 15303, 15311, and 15315 because a small area is being added to the existing sphere of influence.
- (3) The sphere of influence is hereby updated to add Study Area #5 Sunrise Hill Lane Gap to remove a gap area and make for orderly development reflecting the change made to the map attached as Exhibit A; and.
- (4) The sphere of influence is conditioned such that the City shall develop an annexation plan by or before their next cycle of sphere of influence adoption. If no plan is submitted prior to their sphere of influence adoption cycle (January 2031), then the Commission may consider reducing the sphere boundary to better reflect the City's future growth.

- (5) The Commission finds under Government Code §56425(e) and §56430(e) are incorporated by reference based on the determinations made under Chapters One and Chapters Two from the following service reviews: 2021 Municipal Service Reviews providing Fire Protection, Law Enforcement, Safety & Crime and Emergency Medical Services, 2022 Municipal Service Reviews providing Water, Wastewater, Recycled Water and Stormwater Services, 2023 Municipal Service Reviews providing Transportation, Parking, Street Sweeping & Beautification, Lighting, Transit, and Airport Services, 2024 Municipal Service Reviews providing Parks, Recreation, Open Space, Library, and Facility Rental Services, 2025 Municipal Service Reviews providing Healthcare, Vector Control, Municipal Improvement, Harbor, Cemetery and Other Services.

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AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

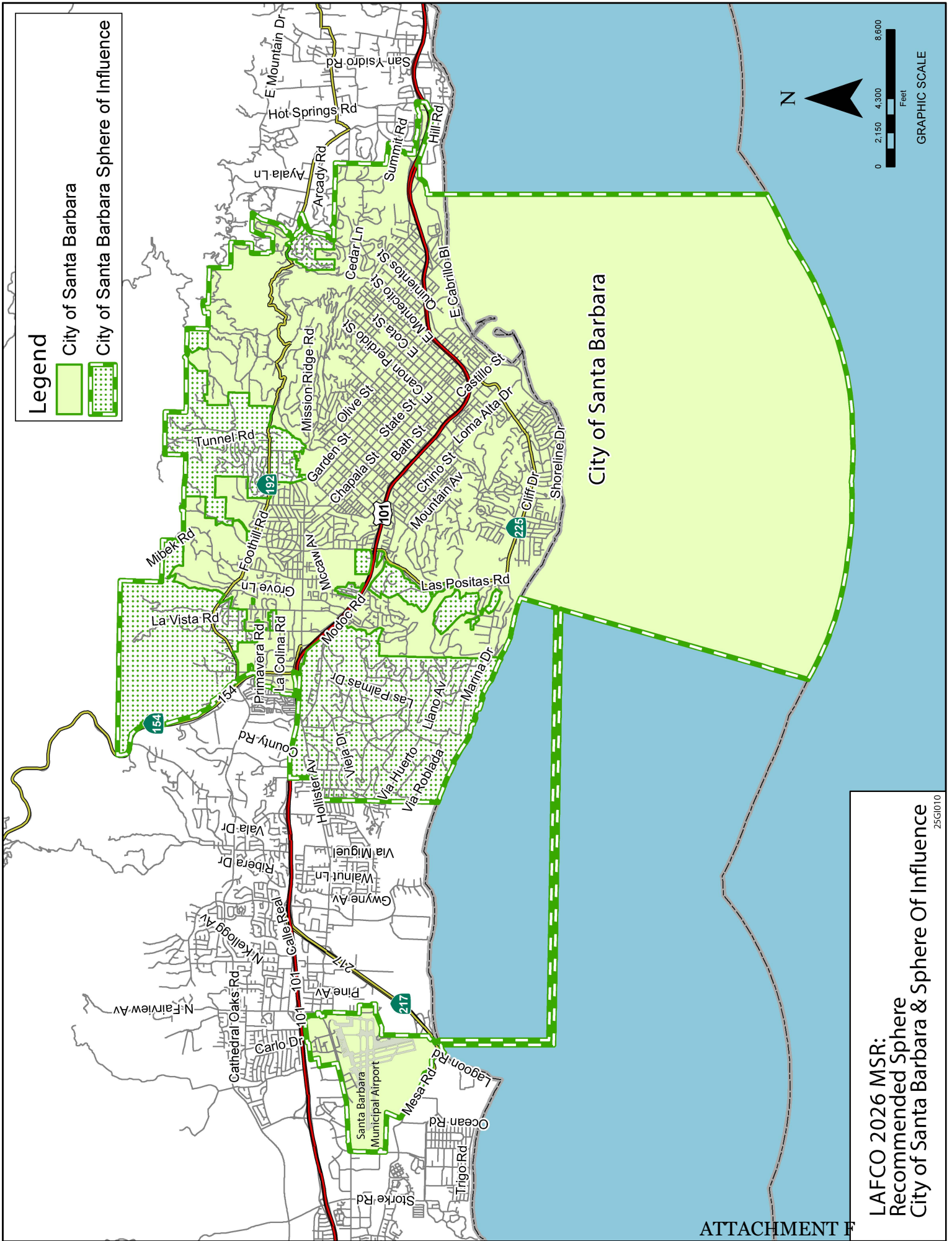
Santa Barbara County Local Agency
Formation Commission

By: _____
Chair, Stark

Date: _____

ATTEST:

Ila Fennell, Commission Clerk
Santa Barbara County
Local Agency Formation Commission



RESOLUTION OF THE SANTA BARBARA COUNTY LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION MAKING WRITTEN DETERMINATION AND CEQA FINDINGS AND REAFFIRMING THE SPHERE OF INFLUENCE FOR THE CITY OF SANTA MARIA

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 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 municipal service reviews and last adopted a Sphere of Influence for the City of Santa Maria on January 16, 2016, and

WHEREAS, in the manner required by law, staff has given notice of the 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, and environmental documents, applicable general and specific, plans and all testimony, correspondence and exhibits received during the public hearing, all of which are included hearing by reference,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED DETERMINED AND ORDERED by the Commission as follows:

- (1) The project before the Commission is an update of the sphere of influence for the City of Santa Maria;
- (2) The Commission finds this update to be exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to CEQA Guidelines 15378(b)(5) because no change of the sphere of influence is being adopted.
- (3) The sphere of influence is hereby updated and no change is made to the map attached as Exhibit A; and.
- (4) The sphere of influence is conditioned such that the City shall develop an annexation plan by or before their next cycle of sphere of influence adoption. If no plan is submitted prior to their sphere of influence adoption cycle (January 2031), then the Commission may consider reducing the sphere boundary to better reflect the City's future growth.
- (5) The Commission finds under Government Code §56425(e) and §56430(e) are

incorporated by reference based on the determinations made under Chapters One and Chapters Two from the following service reviews: 2021 Municipal Service Reviews providing Fire Protection, Law Enforcement, Safety & Crime and Emergency Medical Services, 2022 Municipal Service Reviews providing Water, Wastewater, Recycled Water and Stormwater Services, 2023 Municipal Service Reviews providing Transportation, Parking, Street Sweeping & Beautification, Lighting, Transit, and Airport Services, 2024 Municipal Service Reviews providing Parks, Recreation, Open Space, Library, and Facility Rental Services, 2025 Municipal Service Reviews providing Healthcare, Vector Control, Municipal Improvement, Harbor, Cemetery and Other Services.

This resolution is hereby adopted this 7th day of May, 2026 in Santa Barbara, California and is effective on the date signed by the Chair.

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

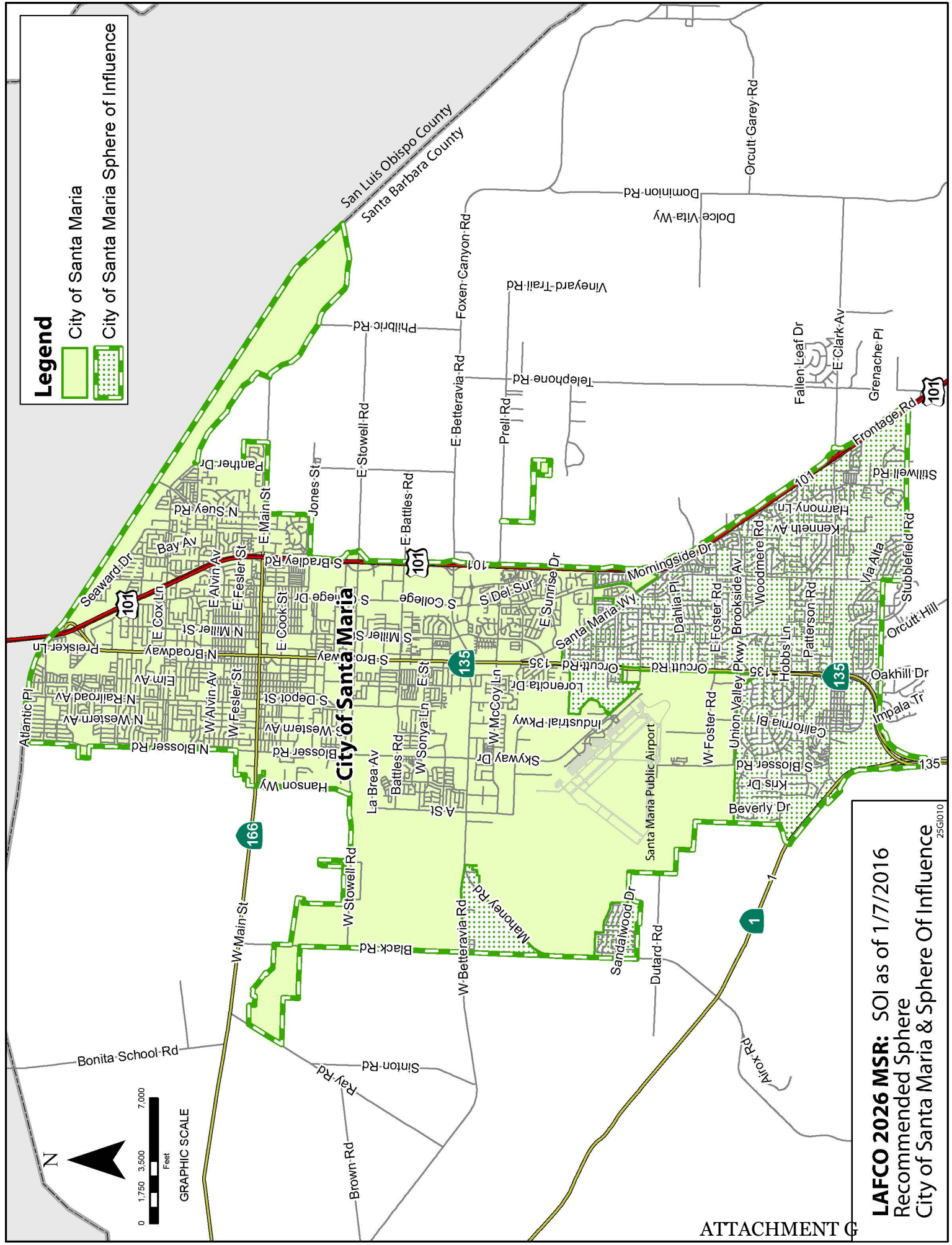
Santa Barbara County Local Agency
Formation Commission

By: _____
Chair, Stark

Date: _____

ATTEST:

Ila Fennell, Commission Clerk
Santa Barbara County
Local Agency Formation Commission



Legend

- City of Santa Maria
- City of Santa Maria Sphere of Influence



GRAPHIC SCALE

LAFCO 2026 MSR: SOI as of 1/7/2016
 Recommended Sphere
 City of Santa Maria & Sphere Of Influence

25G010

RESOLUTION OF THE SANTA BARBARA COUNTY LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION
COMMISSION MAKING WRITTEN DETERMINATION AND CEQA FINDINGS AND
REAFFIRMING THE SPHERE OF INFLUENCE FOR THE CITY OF SOLVANG

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 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 municipal service reviews and last adopted a Sphere of Influence for the City of Solvang on January 16, 2016, and

WHEREAS, in the manner required by law, staff has given notice of the 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, and environmental documents, applicable general and specific, plans and all testimony, correspondence and exhibits received during the public hearing, all of which are included hearing by reference,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED DETERMINED AND ORDERED by the Commission as follows:

- (1) The project before the Commission is an update of the sphere of influence for the City of Solvang;
- (2) The Commission finds this update to be exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to CEQA Guidelines 15378(b)(5) because no change of the sphere of influence is being adopted.
- (3) The sphere of influence is hereby updated and no change is made to the map attached as Exhibit A; and.
- (4) The sphere of influence is conditioned such that the City shall develop an annexation plan by or before their next cycle of sphere of influence adoption. If no plan is submitted prior to their sphere of influence adoption cycle (January 2031), then the Commission may consider reducing the sphere boundary to better reflect the City's future growth.
- (5) The Commission finds under Government Code §56425(e) and §56430(e) are

incorporated by reference based on the determinations made under Chapters One and Chapters Two from the following service reviews: 2021 Municipal Service Reviews providing Fire Protection, Law Enforcement, Safety & Crime and Emergency Medical Services, 2022 Municipal Service Reviews providing Water, Wastewater, Recycled Water and Stormwater Services, 2023 Municipal Service Reviews providing Transportation, Parking, Street Sweeping & Beautification, Lighting, Transit, and Airport Services, 2024 Municipal Service Reviews providing Parks, Recreation, Open Space, Library, and Facility Rental Services, 2025 Municipal Service Reviews providing Healthcare, Vector Control, Municipal Improvement, Harbor, Cemetery and Other Services.

This resolution is hereby adopted this 7th day of May, 2026 in Santa Barbara, California and is effective on the date signed by the Chair.

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

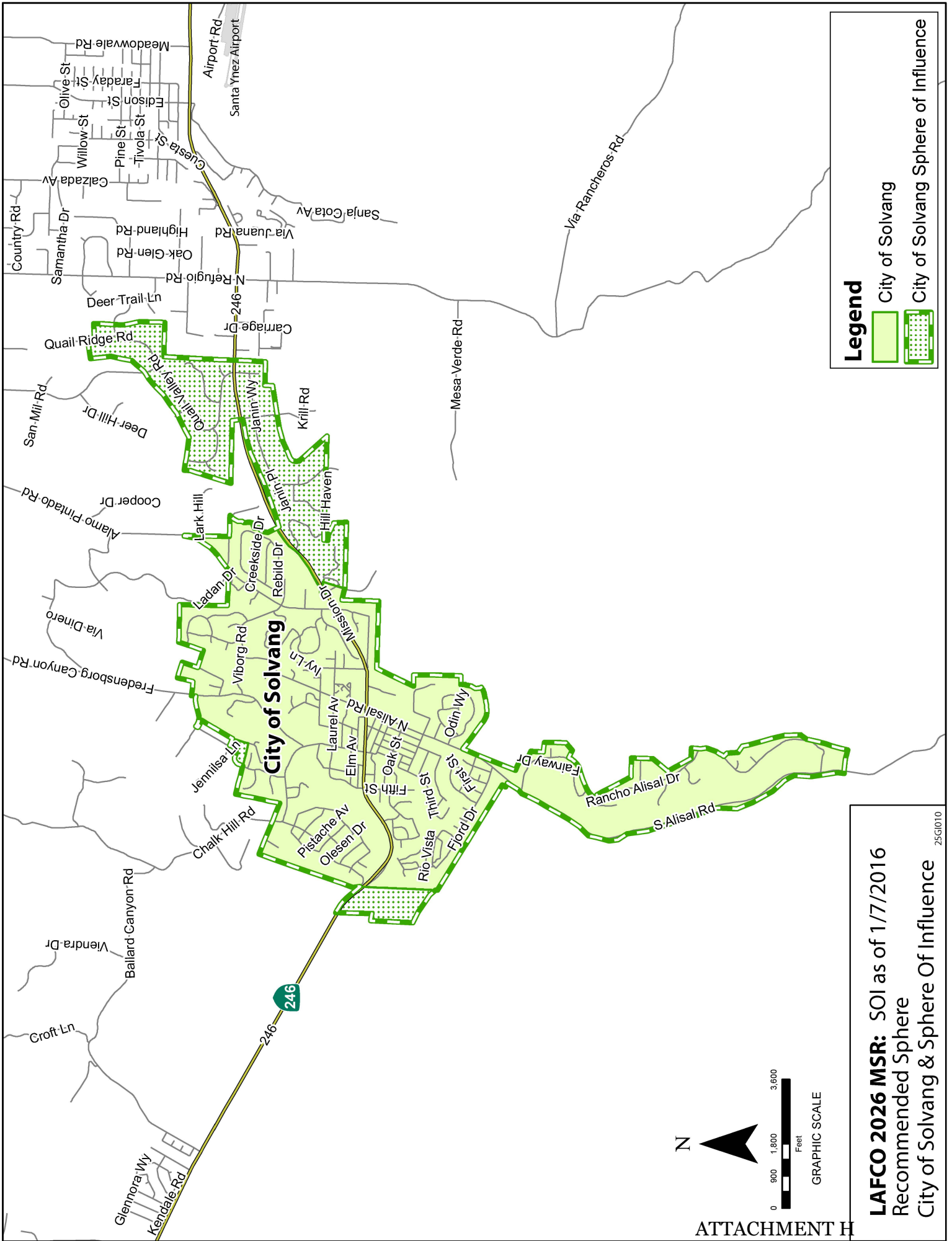
Santa Barbara County Local Agency
Formation Commission

By: _____
Chair, Stark

Date: _____

ATTEST:

Ila Fennell, Commission Clerk
Santa Barbara County
Local Agency Formation Commission



Legend

- City of Solvang
- City of Solvang Sphere of Influence

N

0 900 1,800 3,600
Feet
GRAPHIC SCALE

LAFCO 2026 MSR: SOI as of 1/7/2016
 Recommended Sphere
 City of Solvang & Sphere Of Influence

25G1010

From: Leave93436 Office <office@leave93436.org>
Sent: Friday, April 17, 2026 1:06 PM
To: lafco@sblafco.org
Subject: MSR Input — City of Lompoc SOI Evaluation — Leave93436.org — Supplemental Filing
Attachments: Leave93436_MSR_Supplemental.pdf

Dear Mr. Prater,

Please find attached Leave93436.org's Supplemental Municipal Service Review Input Memorandum regarding the City of Lompoc Sphere of Influence evaluation, filed in advance of the May 7, 2026 hearing.

This memorandum supplements our April 12, 2026 submission. It presents three categories of evidence for the Commission's consideration:

1. Demographic data from CDE, DOF, and school-level enrollment records showing Lompoc city population and enrollment in decline while north-of-river communities demonstrate independent demographic growth;
2. A documented contradiction between the City of Lompoc's HCD-certified Housing Element (January 7, 2025) and its growth justification to this Commission; and
3. Federal land access constraints on APN 095-040-011, including a pending congressional inquiry and an outstanding consultation inquiry to Vandenberg Space Force Base Public Affairs.

We respectfully request that this memorandum and its attachments be included in the administrative record for the May 7 hearing.

Respectfully,

James Lmaont

Leave93436.org

Supplemental Municipal Service Review Input Memorandum

Demographic Evidence and Federal Land Access Constraints

Leave93436.org

A California Nonprofit Public Benefit Organization

EIN: 39-3822308 • Federal Public Charity Status: 170(b)(1)(A)(vi)

Date: April 15, 2026

Santa Barbara County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO)

105 East Anapamu Street, Room 407

Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Subject: Supplemental MSR Input, City of Lompoc Sphere of Influence Evaluation, Supplement to April 12, 2026 Submission

Dear Commissioners:

Purpose and Scope

Leave93436.org files this memorandum as a supplement to our April 12, 2026 Municipal Service Review Input Memorandum already before this Commission regarding the City of Lompoc's Sphere of Influence. Nothing here replaces or walks back anything we said in that earlier filing. What we're doing is bringing forward two additional bodies of evidence that either weren't available at the time of the April 12 submission or needed more development than we could give them on that timeline:

- Demographic data drawn from three separate state agency sources, all of which cut against the population-growth story the City of Lompoc has been telling this Commission to justify pushing its SOI boundary northward; and
- Federal land access problems tied to APN 095-040-011 that, as far as we can determine, have never been raised in any public forum connected to this SOI review.

We lay out each item with its sources identified and close each one with a specific ask, directed either to LAFCO staff or to the full Commission.

Demographic Evidence Contradicts the City's Growth Justification

Three Independent Data Sources, One Direction

The City of Lompoc's contract planning representative, appearing at the April 2, 2026 LAFCO hearing, cited SBCAG regional population projections assigning Lompoc a target of approximately 50,000 to 55,000 residents over the next 25 years as justification for northward SOI expansion. Three independent state agency data sets contradict the demographic premise underlying that projection.

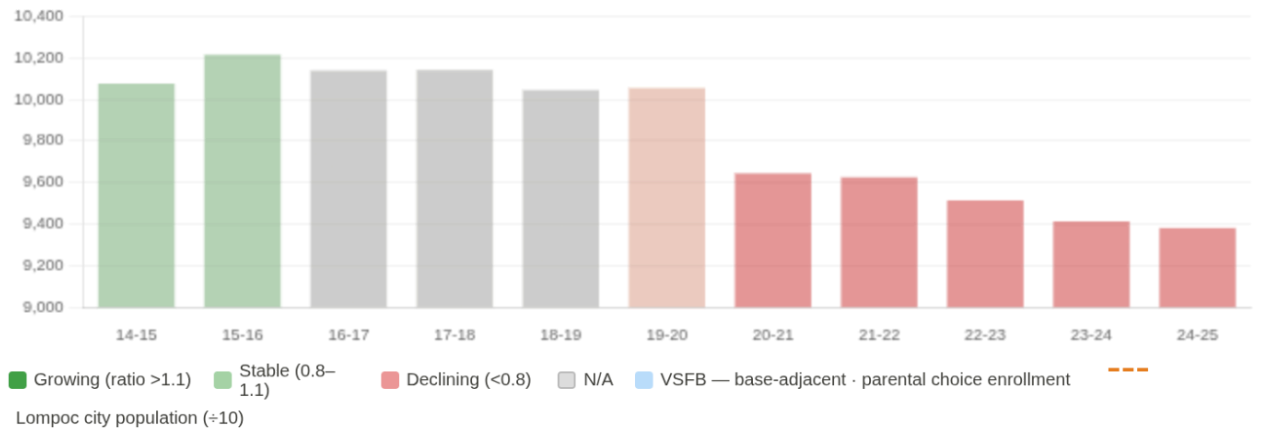
The data Lompoc's planning representative did not present to this Commission
 Three independent state agency sources. All pointing the same direction.

LOMPOC CITY POPULATION -1,357 residents lost 2020–2023 · DOF E-5	LUSD TOTAL ENROLLMENT -834 students lost 2015–2025 · CDE	CABRILLO HIGH (NORTH) +97 students gained since 2019–20 · CDE	SBCAG PROJECTION CITED 50–55k Lompoc growth target · not observed
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VANDENBERG VILLAGE · GROWING		LOMPOC CITY · SHRINKING	
Cabrillo High Constellation Rd · civilian VV · 1,060 students	1.40 growing	Lompoc High City core · 1,849 students	0.98 stable
Vandenberg Middle VSF Utah Ave · VSF-adjacent · 565 students	1.20 growing	Lompoc Valley Middle City core · 620 students	0.98 stable
Crestview Elementary VSF VSFB · parental choice · 373 students	1.42 growing	Arthur Hapgood 320 students	0.74 declining
Buena Vista Elementary Aldebaran Ave · civilian VV · 498 students	0.83 stable	La Honda STEAM 310 students	0.76 declining
Manzanita Charter Civilian VV · charter dynamics · 483 students	0.49 declining	Leonora Fillmore 290 students	0.75 declining
Maple High ★ Jupiter Ave · being demolished · 135 students	— n/a	Clarence Ruth 270 students	0.69 declining
<i>Mission Hills · unincorporated north-of-river</i>		La Canada 240 students	0.62 declining
Los Berros VPA The Wye · Mission Hills CDP · 250 students	0.69 declining	Miguelito 230 students	0.61 declining

Lompoc city: shrinking · Vandenberg Village: growing · The river is the line

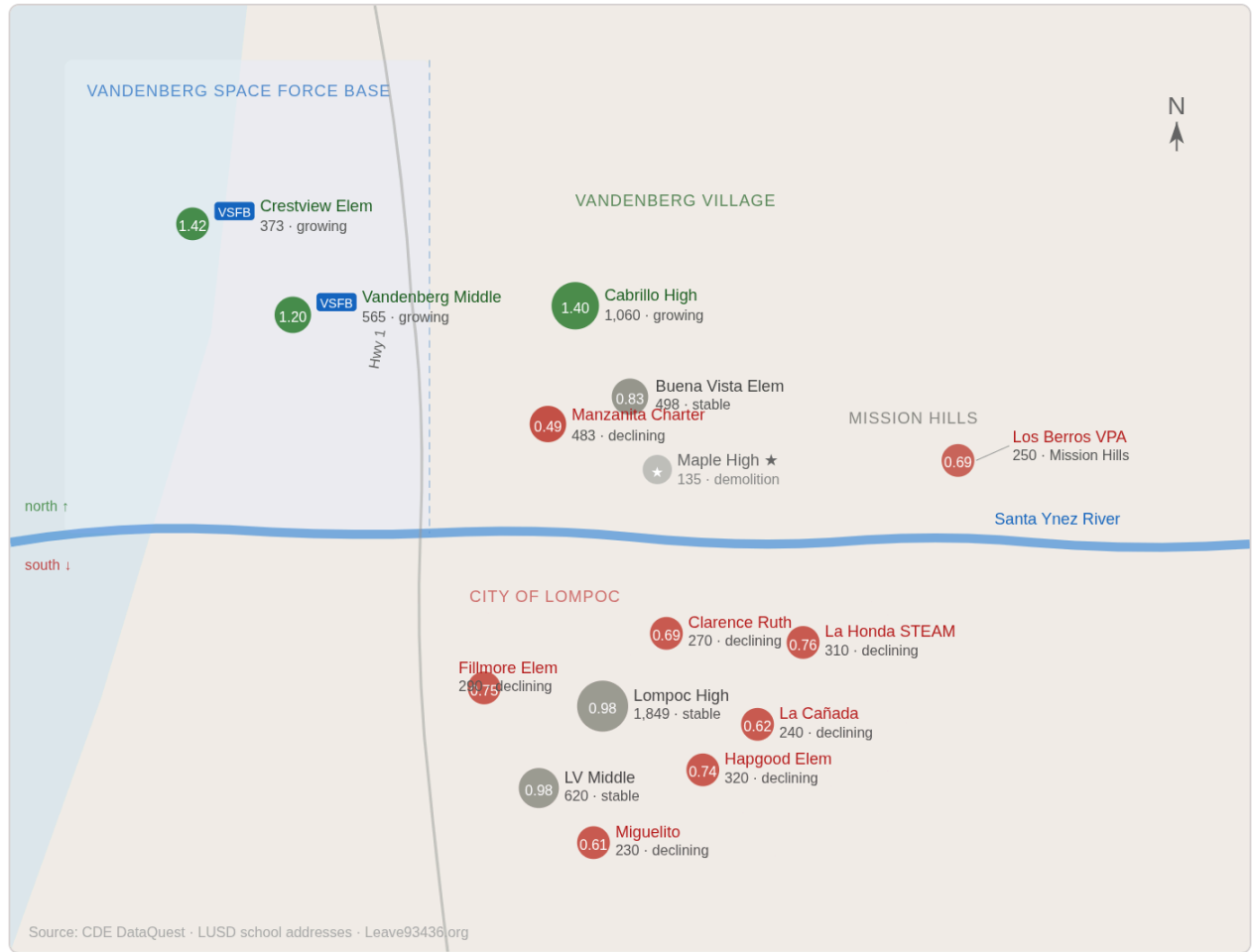
LUSD total enrollment 2014–2025 — 11 years of continuous decline while Lompoc seeks to expand its boundary northward



Pipeline ratio: (TK+K) + (Grade 5+6) for elementary; (Grade 9) + (Grade 12) for high schools. Above 1.0 = more students entering than leaving — standard demographic leading indicator. ★ Maple High excluded: LUSD is demolishing this north-of-river campus to build workforce housing to address south-of-river enrollment and financial pressures. Sources: CDE DataQuest LUSD (42-69229) 2014–15 through 2024–25 · DOF E-5 Population Estimates 2020–2023 · LUSD Second Interim Financial Report March 18, 2026.

LUSD school locations — enrollment trend by geography

School dots sized by enrollment · color indicates pipeline ratio · Santa Ynez River shown as boundary



Source: CDE DataQuest · LUSD school addresses · Leave93436.org

● Growing (ratio >1.1)
 ● Stable (0.8–1.1)
 ● Declining (<0.8)
 ● N/A (Maple High — demolition)
 — VSF boundary
— Santa Ynez River

School positions approximate based on LUSD published addresses. Circle size reflects relative enrollment. River shown as demographic and service boundary. North-of-river schools (green/gray) serve Vandenberg Village, Mission Hills, and VSF communities. South-of-river schools (red) serve Lompoc city proper. Sources: LUSD school directory · CDE DataQuest 2024–25.

California Department of Education — District Enrollment, 2014–2025

CDE annual enrollment records for Lompoc Unified School District show total district enrollment declining from a peak of 10,215 students in 2015–16 to 9,381 students in 2024–25, a loss of 834 students over eleven years.¹ The district’s own Second Interim Financial Report, presented to the LUSD Board of Trustees on March 18, 2026, projects an additional decline of approximately 128 students through 2027–28, with funded Average Daily Attendance falling a further 161.² LUSD has been in continuous enrollment decline for a decade. The Second Interim projection indicates that decline is accelerating, not reversing.

California Department of Finance — City of Lompoc Population Estimates

DOF population estimates show Lompoc city population peaked at 44,402 in 2020 and has declined to approximately 43,045 by 2023, a loss of 1,357 residents in three years.³ The CDE enrollment trend and the DOF population trend are parallel and contemporaneous. Two independent state agencies are measuring the same demographic reality from different angles.

CDE School-Level Data — Demographic Separation Along the River

School-level CDE enrollment data reveals a material distinction that aggregate figures obscure. The decline in LUSD enrollment is concentrated in Lompoc city schools. North-of-river schools serving Vandenberg Village and surrounding communities show a different trajectory — with Manzanita Charter's decline attributable to charter enrollment dynamics, and Los Berros VPA located in unincorporated Mission Hills, not Lompoc city.⁴

Cabrillo High School, serving north-of-river students on Constellation Road, enrolled 1,060 students in 2024–25, up from 977 in 2019–20. Crestview Elementary carries a pipeline ratio of 1.42, meaning 42% more students are entering the school than leaving the upper grades. Vandenberg Middle School shows a 1.20 pipeline ratio. Buena Vista Elementary shows stable enrollment with a 0.83 ratio consistent with a settled community. Every Lompoc city elementary school, by contrast, shows a pipeline ratio below 0.80, with Miguelito Elementary at 0.61 and La Canada Elementary at 0.62.

The pipeline ratio measures the ratio of students entering a school's lowest grades to students in the upper grades. A ratio above 1.0 indicates a growing intake relative to the cohort completing the school. This is a standard leading demographic indicator used in school district planning.

The enrollment pattern at schools located on or adjacent to Vandenberg Space Force Base reflects in part an active parental choice dynamic: north-of-river families and some Lompoc city families are electing base-adjacent schools over LUSD's Lompoc city campuses, a pattern consistent with LUSD's documented academic underperformance relative to county and state averages.

The demographic separation is not a marginal distinction. It is a clean directional split along the Santa Ynez River. North-of-river schools are growing. Lompoc city schools are declining. The river is not just an infrastructure boundary, it is a demographic boundary measurable in state enrollment data.

LUSD's Institutional Response Confirms Contraction

LUSD is simultaneously advancing a proposal to demolish the former La Mesa Elementary School / Maple Continuation High School campus at 4010 Jupiter Avenue in Vandenberg Village and replace it with approximately 200 units of workforce housing.⁵ The campus sits north of the Santa Ynez River, within the growing community documented above. LUSD has cited staff retention and affordability, problems driven by district-wide financial stress rooted in south-of-river enrollment decline as the justification for this conversion. A district eliminates educational capacity in a growing community to solve financial problems generated by a declining one when its institutional center of gravity has already shifted away from that community. The conversion is further evidence that LUSD's planning horizon is oriented toward the south-of-river core, not toward the north-of-river communities whose demographic trajectory is diverging from it.

The Irreconcilable Conflict

SBCAG's regional allocation figures are planning targets, not observed demographic conditions. CDE enrollment data is a direct, independently verified, annually reported measure of actual family household formation in the service area. DOF population estimates are the state's official municipal population accounting. When all three sources show decline in Lompoc city while north-of-river schools show growth, the SBCAG projection cannot be treated as a basis for SOI expansion without reconciling that conflict on the record.

We respectfully request that LAFCO staff require the City of Lompoc to produce a documented demographic analysis reconciling SBCAG population projections with CDE enrollment trends and DOF population estimates before any northward SOI expansion is considered by this Commission.

SBCAG's Own Analysis Contradicts the Growth Justification

The SBCAG Final 6th Cycle RHNA Plan (July 2021) assigned Lompoc 2,248 units for 2023–2031, the same analysis Lompoc's contract planning representative cited at the April 2 hearing, and states plainly that the Lompoc region has a surplus housing supply relative to jobs and population, prioritizing infill development. HCD certified Lompoc's Housing Element on January 7, 2025, confirming sufficient sites within existing boundaries to meet the full 2,248-unit obligation. A city cannot certify to HCD that existing boundaries are adequate and simultaneously represent to this Commission that northward SOI expansion is required to accommodate growth. LAFCO's service-efficiency analysis under §56425 should account for this contradiction before treating projected population growth as a basis for crossing the Santa Ynez River.

Lompoc told two state bodies two different stories

The same SBCAG data used to justify SOI expansion shows a Lompoc housing surplus — and Lompoc already certified it can meet its housing obligation without expanding.

LOMPOC RHNA ALLOCATION

2,248

units · 2023–2031 · SBCAG

SBCAG FINDING ON LOMPOC

Surplus

housing supply relative to jobs · SBCAG RHNA report

HCD CERTIFICATION DATE

Jan 7

2025 · existing boundaries sufficient

WHAT LOMPOC TOLD HCD

HOUSING SITES

We have sufficient sites within existing boundaries to accommodate all 2,248 RHNA units across all income categories.

Housing Element, adopted Nov 19, 2024 · HCD certified Jan 7, 2025

GROWTH CAPACITY

Existing zoning and infill capacity can accommodate projected household formation through 2031.

Housing Element sites inventory · HCD compliance letter

NEED FOR EXPANSION

Not identified. No request to HCD for additional planning territory north of existing boundaries.

Housing Element 2023–2031

SBCAG REGIONAL FINDING

Lompoc region has a surplus housing supply relative to jobs and population.

SBCAG RHNA Supplemental Report, 2021

vs.

WHAT LOMPOC TOLD LAFCO

GROWTH CLAIM

SBCAG projects Lompoc will grow to 50,000–55,000 residents over 25 years, requiring northward SOI expansion.

Lompoc contract planner, April 2, 2026 LAFCO hearing

TERRITORY NEEDED

North-of-river communities must be included in Lompoc's Sphere of Influence to accommodate future growth.

City of Lompoc SOI expansion request, 2026

IMPLIED CAPACITY GAP

Existing boundaries are insufficient for Lompoc's projected growth needs.

Implicit in SOI expansion rationale

SBCAG DATA USED

Same SBCAG projections cited — but the surplus finding and infill priority from the same document were not disclosed.

April 2, 2026 LAFCO hearing transcript

THE CONTRADICTION

A city that has certified to the California Department of Housing and Community Development that it has sufficient sites within existing boundaries to meet its housing obligations cannot simultaneously represent to LAFCO that it requires northward Sphere expansion to accommodate the same growth. Government Code §56425 requires that SOI determinations reflect actual service need — not projections that the City's own certified planning documents do not support.

Sources: SBCAG Final 6th Cycle RHNA Plan, July 2021 (Lompoc allocation: 2,248 units; sbcag.org). SBCAG RHNA Supplemental Report, 2021 (surplus housing supply finding). City of Lompoc Housing Element 2023–2031, adopted November 19, 2024, certified by HCD January 7, 2025 (envisonlompoc.com). April 2, 2026 Santa Barbara LAFCO Regular Meeting Transcript.

Federal Land Access Constraints Adjacent to APN 095-040-011

Direct Communication with Federal Land Officer

Leave93436.org has been in direct communication with an individual with operational responsibility for land within and adjacent to APN 095-040-011 in connection with Federal Bureau of Prisons facility operations. That individual has confirmed a fact material to this Commission's evaluation: any formal federal agency position on the status of APN 095-040-011 relative to the City of Lompoc Sphere of Influence would require action originating from Washington, D.C., not the facility level. This is consistent with the established legal framework — federal land cannot be annexed by a municipality under California law regardless of Sphere designation, and formal federal determinations on land jurisdiction do not originate from the facility level. A Sphere of Influence that encompasses federal land creates a planning assumption that cannot be legally realized.

Leave93436.org has separately initiated an inquiry through Congressman Salud Carbajal's office requesting that the appropriate federal agencies provide a formal written determination regarding the status of APN 095-040-011 and its relationship to the City of Lompoc Sphere of Influence.⁷ That inquiry is pending. A Washington-level federal determination, if produced, would provide the Commission with the formal agency position that the facility-level officer confirmed cannot be issued at the local level.

Leave93436.org has submitted a formal inquiry to Vandenberg Space Force Base Public Affairs (SSC SLD 30/PA) regarding whether VSFB was formally consulted in connection with the City of Lompoc's pending Sphere of Influence evaluation by this Commission, and regarding base encroachment management policies applicable to adjacent lands.⁸ VSFB Public Affairs has acknowledged receipt of that inquiry. A substantive response is pending as of the date of this filing.

Staff Verification Requested

We respectfully request that LAFCO staff independently verify the following before the May hearing:

- Whether the City of Lompoc, Lompoc Unified School District, or any party acting on their behalf has disclosed, in any public proceeding or correspondence with this Commission, any outreach to federal land managers regarding egress, access easements, or land use adjacent to APN 095-040-011;
- Whether the federal land status of APN 095-040-011 was formally evaluated at the time any prior LAFCO action placed this parcel within the Lompoc Sphere of Influence boundary layer; and
- Whether continued Sphere inclusion of APN 095-040-011 remains appropriate given that the underlying annexation objective cannot be achieved for federally controlled land, and given that the parcel's primary documented relationship with Lompoc, wastewater conveyance does not constitute comprehensive municipal service integration under Government Code §56425.

Requested Supplemental Findings

In addition to the determinations requested in the April 12, 2026 submission, Leave93436.org respectfully requests that LAFCO staff consider the following supplemental findings within the Municipal Service Review:

1. That CDE annual enrollment records showing an 11-year district-wide decline of 834 students, DOF population estimates showing Lompoc city population declining since 2020, and school-level pipeline ratio data showing demographic growth concentrated north of the Santa Ynez River taken together, constitute independently verified evidence from three state agencies that the City of Lompoc has not demonstrated exhaustion of internal growth capacity as a prerequisite to northward SOI expansion, and that SBCAG population projections relied upon by the City's planning representative have not been reconciled with observed demographic conditions;

2. That the undisclosed outreach by a public agency to federal land managers seeking egress through federal property adjacent to APN 095-040-011 to resolve an access geometry problem created by that agency's own development proposal constitutes a material omission from the administrative record that LAFCO staff should independently investigate and address before the Commission takes final action on the SOI; and
3. That a formal Washington-level federal determination regarding the status of APN 095-040-011 relative to the City of Lompoc Sphere of Influence, if produced through the pending congressional inquiry, should be incorporated into the administrative record before the Commission takes final action.

Conclusion

The two categories of evidence presented in this supplement share a common thread: material facts bearing on the service-efficiency analysis required by Government Code §56425 are absent from the current administrative record.

Three independent state agencies CDE, DOF, and the school-level enrollment data show Lompoc city contracting while the north-of-river communities maintain a growing and independent demographic trajectory. The river is not only a physical and infrastructure boundary. It is a demographic boundary, measurable in state data and confirmed by the direction of population and enrollment trends on each side. A city that is losing residents and school-age children does not require northward SOI expansion to serve projected growth. It requires an honest accounting of where growth is actually occurring, and where it is not.

Federal land constraints on APN 095-040-011 remain unresolved in the administrative record. The Commission should not take final action on the SOI while federal land status verification, a pending congressional inquiry, and an outstanding Space Force consultation inquiry remain open. These are not peripheral concerns. They bear directly on whether the planning assumptions embedded in the current Sphere designation are legally realizable.

Respectfully,

Leave93436.org

office@leave93436.org

www.leave93436.org

Notes

- ¹ California Department of Education, DataQuest Annual Enrollment by Grade, Lompoc Unified School District (CDS Code 42-69229), Academic Years 2014–15 through 2024–25. Available at: dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest
- ² Lompoc Unified School District, Second Interim Financial Report, presented to the LUSD Board of Trustees, March 18, 2026. Enrollment projection: decline of approximately 128 students through 2027–28; funded ADA decline of approximately 161.
- ³ California Department of Finance, E-5 Population and Housing Estimates for Cities, Counties, and the State, January 1, 2021–2025. Sacramento, California, May 2025. Lompoc city population: 44,402 (2020 Census-benchmarked baseline); 43,045 (January 1, 2023 estimate). Available at: dof.ca.gov/forecasting/demographics/estimates/e-5-population-and-housing-estimates-for-cities-counties-and-the-state-2020-2025/
- ⁴ California Department of Education, DataQuest Annual Enrollment by Grade, individual school reports: Cabrillo High School, Crestview Elementary, Vandenberg Village Middle School, Buena Vista Elementary, Miguelito Elementary, La Canada Elementary (CDS Code 42-69229), 2024–25. Available at: dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest. Pipeline ratio methodology: (TK+K enrollment) ÷ (Grade 5+6 enrollment) for elementary; (Grade 9 enrollment) ÷ (Grade 12 enrollment) for high schools. A ratio above 1.0 indicates more students entering the pipeline than completing it — a standard leading indicator in school district demographic planning.
- ⁵ Lompoc Unified School District and Regional Economic Action Coalition (REACH), Land Use Due Diligence and Site Assessment Summary Memorandum, prepared by RRM Design Group, October 9, 2025. Subject property: 4010 Jupiter Avenue, Vandenberg Village (APN 097-093-001).
- ⁶ Leave93436.org, direct communication with individual with operational responsibility for land within and adjacent to APN 095-040-011, April 2026. Communications on file. Identity withheld consistent with standard practice for facility-level federal officers not authorized to make public agency statements.
- ⁷ Leave93436.org, correspondence to Office of Congressman Salud Carbajal requesting federal agency inquiry regarding APN 095-040-011 and its relationship to the City of Lompoc Sphere of Influence, April 2026. Response pending as of date of this filing.
- ⁸ Leave93436.org, inquiry submitted to Vandenberg Space Force Base Public Affairs Office (SSC SLD 30/PA) regarding whether VSFB was formally consulted in connection with the City of Lompoc Sphere of Influence evaluation by Santa Barbara LAFCO, and regarding base encroachment management policies applicable to adjacent lands, April 14, 2026. VSFB Public Affairs acknowledged receipt April 15, 2026. Substantive response pending as of date of this filing.
- ⁹ Santa Barbara County Association of Governments, Final 6th Cycle Regional Housing Needs Allocation Plan, July 2021, p. 3 (Lompoc allocation: 2,248 total units, 2023–2031). Available at: sbcag.org/planning-programming/demographics/. SBCAG RHNA Supplemental Report: “A similar comparison for the Lompoc and Santa Maria Valley regions suggests a surplus housing supply.”
- ¹⁰ City of Lompoc, Housing Element 2023–2031, adopted November 19, 2024; certified by California Department of Housing and Community Development, January 7, 2025. The Housing Element identifies sites within existing city boundaries sufficient to accommodate the City’s full RHNA allocation of 2,248 units. Available at: envisionlompoc.com/a-housing-element.

Municipal Service Review Input Memorandum

*Request for Non-Urban Service Area Classification,
Sphere Exclusion, and Santa Ynez River as Permanent Municipal Service Boundary*
Leave93436.org

A California Nonprofit Public Benefit Organization
EIN: 39-3822308 • Federal Public Charity Status: 170(b)(1)(A)(vi)
Serving the Vandenberg Village and 93436 community

Date: 12th of April 2026

Santa Barbara County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO)
105 East Anapamu Street, Room 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Subject: MSR Input, City of Lompoc Sphere of Influence Evaluation

Geographic Focus: Vandenberg Village, Mission Hills, Mesa Oaks, Purisima Highlands, and APN 095-040-011

Dear Commissioners:

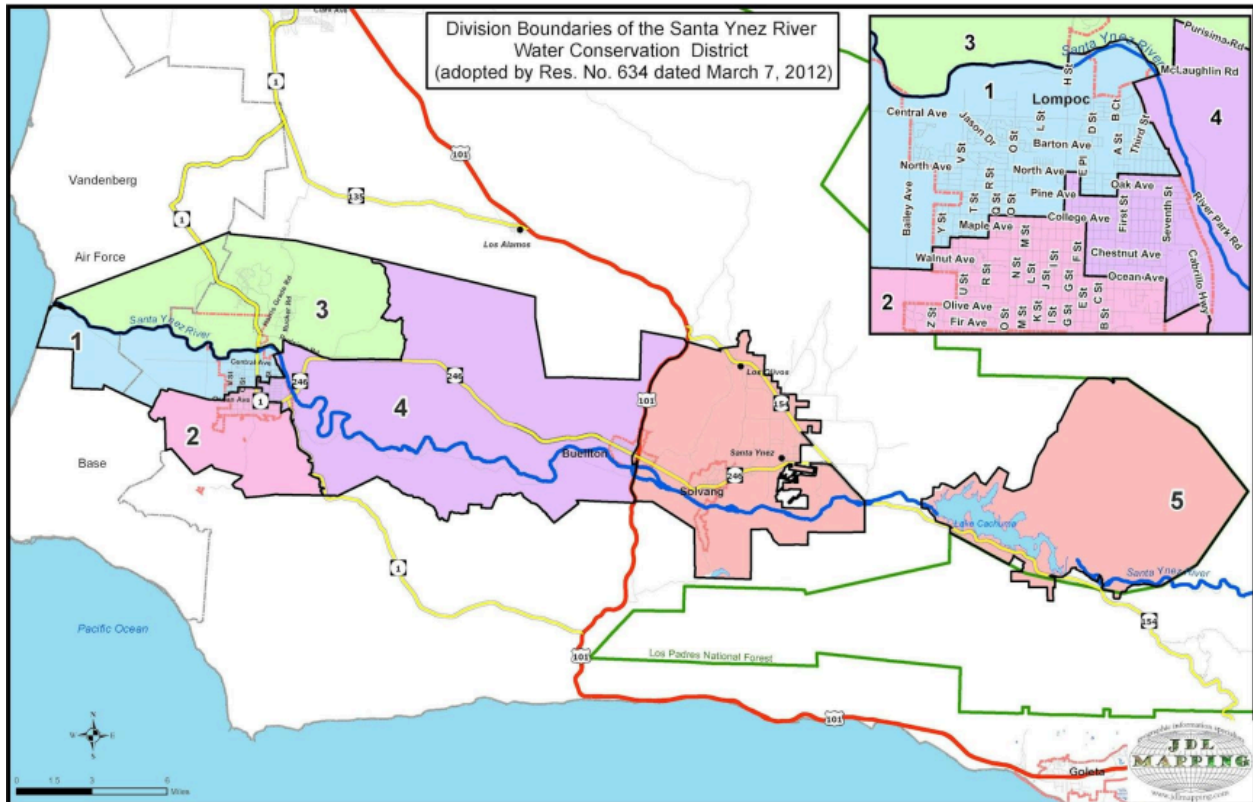
We submit this memorandum for consideration in the Municipal Service Review supporting evaluation of the City of Lompoc's Sphere of Influence. Our organization respectfully requests:

- That Vandenberg Village, Mission Hills, Mesa Oaks, and Purisima Highlands be classified as a Non-Urban Service Area and excluded from the City of Lompoc Sphere of Influence
- That APN 095-040-011 be removed from any City of Lompoc boundary or Sphere of Influence designation
- That the Santa Ynez River corridor be recognized as the permanent northern municipal service boundary of the City of Lompoc for purposes of infrastructure planning, orderly growth analysis, and all future Sphere of Influence determinations

We ground these requests in existing service patterns, infrastructure separation, emergency-access constraints, the federal land status of APN 095-040-011, and the fact that no resident petition for annexation has been filed. The Sphere configuration presently under consideration remains subject to modification before final adoption.¹ This MSR cycle is the appropriate interval for reconsidering Sphere boundary assumptions that affect north-of-river communities.²

No service deficiency finding has been published that would justify extending municipal service assumptions north of the Santa Ynez River corridor. The SOI expansion now under consideration is being driven entirely by the City of Lompoc through a contract planning representative who holds concurrent private development interests in the subject area. On April 7, 2026, the Board of Supervisors voted 3-1 to reject the City of Santa Maria's tax exchange proposal for the Richards Ranch annexation. The Board cited projected county fiscal losses and the superior service level of County Fire's paramedic-on-every-engine model over city alternatives, a parallel determination that bears directly on the Lompoc SOI evaluation before this Commission.

The Santa Ynez River as Permanent Municipal Service Boundary



The Santa Ynez River corridor is a substantial, permanent, and legally sound boundary for the City of Lompoc's northward municipal service expansion. What supports this determination is physical geography, infrastructure reality, evacuation constraints, and federal land designation, not administrative convention.

In practical terms, the river corridor serves as:

- A permanent hydrological and topographic barrier between the Lompoc municipal grid and north-of-river communities
- The southern boundary of the independent service territories operated by Vandenberg Village CSD and Mission Hills CSD
- The northern limit of City of Lompoc roadway jurisdiction, potable water infrastructure, and fire deployment geometry
- A wildfire-interface transition zone that separates Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone communities from the Lompoc urban core
- The geographic line beyond which any Lompoc service extension would demand new backbone infrastructure, not logical system expansion

Recognizing the Santa Ynez River as Lompoc's permanent northern municipal service boundary aligns with Government Code §56425 service-efficiency criteria. It also reflects decades of actual service delivery patterns and would resolve the ongoing ambiguity that results from Sphere of Influence boundaries that do not match any existing or projected service reality.

This boundary is not hypothetical or novel. The Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District Division 3, established by Resolution No. 634 (March 7, 2012), already formally defines Vandenberg Village, Mission Hills, and Burton Mesa as a distinct governance territory separate from the City of Lompoc. This boundary is codified in county GIS, used in county electoral mapping, recognized in state agency planning documents, and used operationally by emergency services for dispatch and resource allocation. Leave93436.org has separately requested USPS ZIP code boundary realignment to bring federal addressing records into conformance with this same Division 3 boundary. Santa Barbara County, the State of California, and multiple regional agencies already treat this line as the operative jurisdictional divide. LAFCO recognition of the Santa Ynez River as Lompoc's permanent northern municipal service boundary would not create a new line, it would align LAFCO's determination with a boundary that has been formally adopted and operationally used for over a decade.

Existing Service Structure North of the Santa Ynez River Corridor

North-of-river communities are primarily served by County and independent service providers — not through integrated municipal systems run by the City of Lompoc. These service relationships have held steady for decades and represent the most efficient delivery framework for the area.

- Santa Barbara County Sheriff
- Santa Barbara County Fire Department, which provides paramedic-on-every-engine service exceeding city-level capability
- County roadway jurisdiction
- Vandenberg Village Community Services District, independent potable water
- Mission Hills Community Services District, independent potable water
- PG&E, electric service
- Marborg, independent waste hauler
- Decentralized wastewater collection connected through legacy conveyance infrastructure

It is worth pointing out that the City of Lompoc's own draft 2050 General Plan Circulation Element (Public Hearing Draft, September 2025) explicitly names Vandenberg Village and Mission Hills as communities served by COLT transit, calling Lompoc "a vital transportation link" for these unincorporated residents.³ That language, in Lompoc's own planning document, reads more like annexation intent than a description of existing service integration.

Geographic Separation from the Municipal Service Grid

The Santa Ynez River corridor creates a substantial and durable physical gap between the City of Lompoc's municipal service grid and the communities to the north. Bringing comprehensive municipal services across this corridor would mean building new backbone infrastructure, it would not be a logical extension of what already exists.

Specifically, it would require:

- New transmission-scale utility crossings
- Expanded circulation integration across the river corridor
- Revised emergency-response deployment geometry
- New infrastructure staging corridors

All of this supports treating the north-of-river communities as outside the logical long-term municipal service expansion boundary. The Santa Ynez River is not a planning abstraction. It is a physical infrastructure barrier that has marked the limit of Lompoc's actual service delivery for the entire history of the surrounding communities.

Wastewater Conveyance and Limited Service Connections

Certain north-of-river communities have maintained a longstanding wastewater conveyance relationship with the City of Lompoc wastewater treatment facility through infrastructure aligned along the Floradale corridor and APN 095-040-011, in service since May of 1977. This legacy arrangement is a specific bilateral infrastructure agreement. It is not a comprehensive municipal service integration.

Wastewater conveyance by itself does not create:

- Municipal potable-water dependency
- Municipal roadway jurisdiction
- Municipal fire-protection reliance
- Circulation-network continuity
- Integrated municipal service delivery expectations across adjacent lands

A historic wastewater corridor should be evaluated for what it is, a limited infrastructure relationship rather than treated as evidence supporting Sphere inclusion or annexation planning assumptions.

The same logic applies to COLT Route 4. Public project documents already cite this route to support transit adjacency claims for private development proposals within the Sphere area.⁴ The route does not qualify as a "major transit stop" under AB 2097 or AB 2553. When a transit connection functions primarily as a development entitlement tool rather than a genuine community mobility resource, it should not be treated as the kind of service integration that supports Sphere inclusion under Government Code §56425.

Potable Water Service Conditions

North-of-river communities get their water through independent systems, not through the City of Lompoc's municipal potable-water infrastructure.

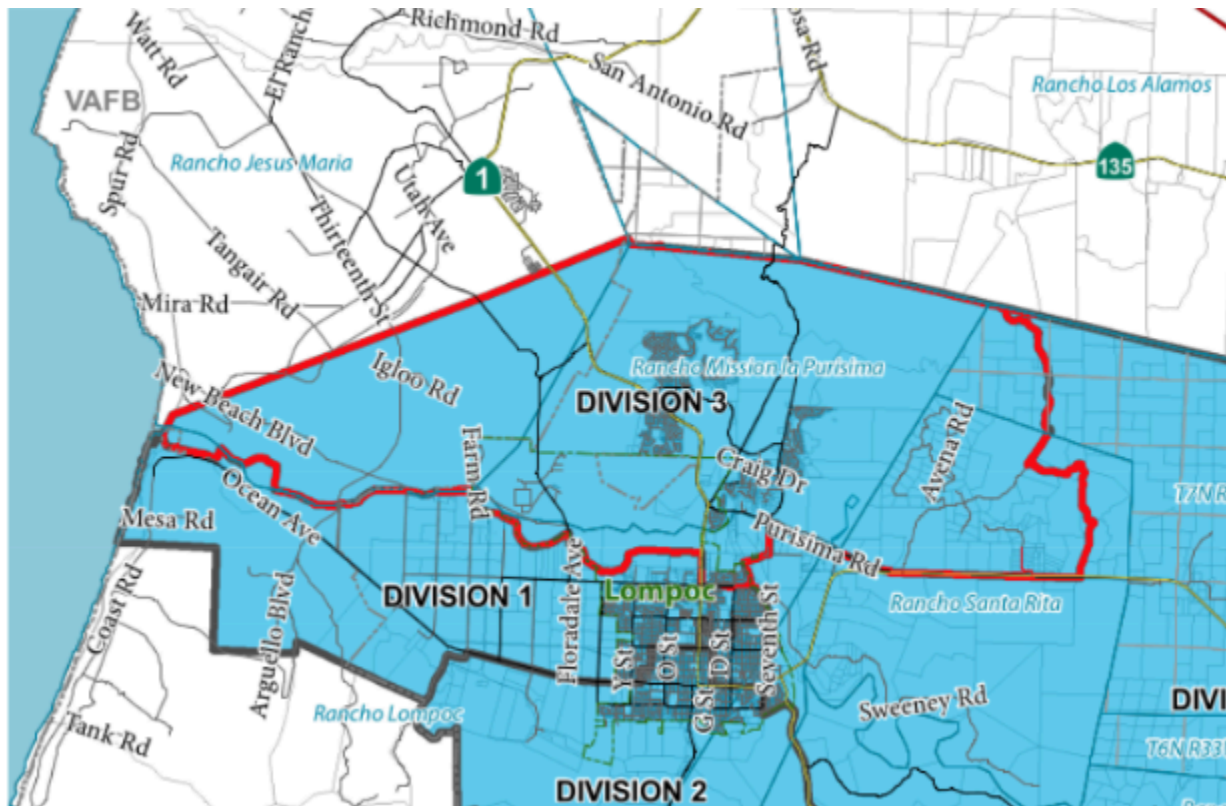
Vandenberg Village has zero connection to the City of Lompoc municipal water-distribution network. The Vandenberg Village CSD runs a fully independent potable water system.

Mission Hills CSD does maintain a limited emergency interconnect with the City of Lompoc water system. It can be activated via portable booster pump infrastructure on Harris Grade Road, north of the Purisima Road intersection, within the Mission Hills service area and north of the Santa Ynez River. But this interconnect exists for emergency backup only. It does not amount to operational potable water service

delivery from the City of Lompoc, and it does not extend to Vandenberg Village. Here is the key point: the City of Lompoc's water infrastructure does not cross the Santa Ynez River corridor under any operational or emergency scenario. The emergency interconnect is initiated and controlled entirely from the north-of-river side. A standard emergency interconnect between adjacent independent water systems is consistent with independent district operation. It does not prove municipal service integration under Government Code §56425.

Keeping existing service arrangements in place avoids duplicating infrastructure and supports efficient long-term service delivery.

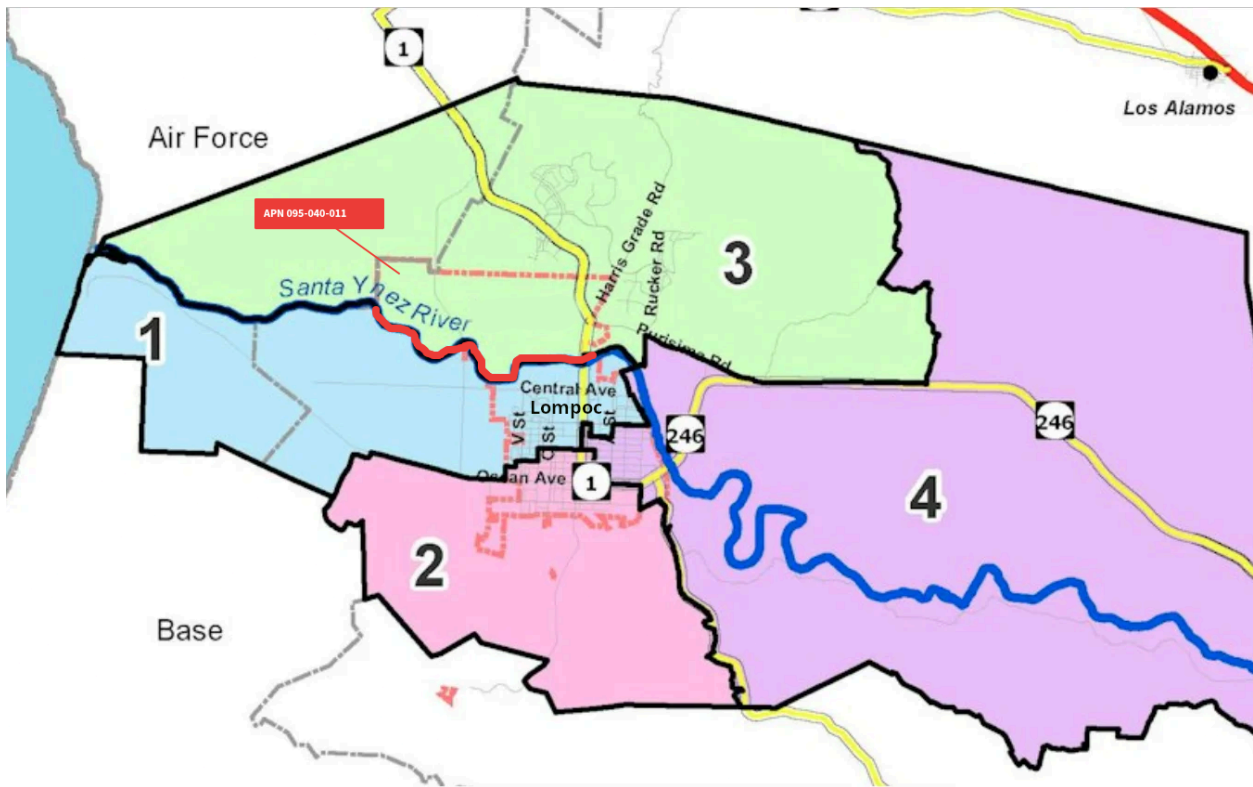
APN 095-040-011 – Sphere of Influence Inclusion and Federal Land Status



APN 095-040-011 covers 2,664.68 acres north of the Santa Ynez River corridor, west of Lompoc Airport, and immediately south of Vandenberg Village. To put that acreage in context: this single parcel constitutes a substantial portion of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Division 3 territory. Division 3, established by Resolution No. 634 (March 7, 2012), is the formally adopted governmental boundary that defines the north-of-river communities, Vandenberg Village, Mission Hills, and Burton Mesa, as a distinct jurisdiction separate from the City of Lompoc. APN 095-040-011 does not sit at the edge of Division 3. It is part of its fabric.

Santa Barbara County Land Use and Zoning GIS records (updated September 8, 2025) show this parcel within or contiguous to a City of Lompoc boundary designation layer, consistent with its inclusion in the City of Lompoc Sphere of Influence. That SOI designation is the only governmental classification that places this parcel in the Lompoc orbit. Every other system, county electoral mapping, water district governance, state agency planning, emergency dispatch, and CDTFA tax jurisdiction, treats it as part of the north-of-river district structure. The SOI designation is the outlier, not the baseline.

The parcel is also associated with lands under the control of the United States Space Force, with adjacent federal use associated with the Federal Bureau of Prisons.⁵ Federal land cannot be annexed by a municipality under California law regardless of Sphere designation. A Sphere of Influence that encompasses federal land creates a planning assumption that cannot be legally realized. We ask that LAFCO staff verify: (1) the resolution number and date of any prior LAFCO action that placed this parcel within the Lompoc Sphere; (2) whether the parcel's federal land status was evaluated at that time; and (3) whether continued Sphere inclusion remains appropriate given that the underlying annexation objective cannot be achieved for federally-controlled land.



APN 095-040-011 is in the lower middle portion of District 3 (Green) of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, above the Lompoc District 1 (Blue) boundary.

The parcel's primary documented relationship with the City of Lompoc is the longstanding wastewater conveyance alignment through the Floradale/Central corridor. That limited infrastructure role does not make the parcel appropriate for continued Sphere designation or future annexation. What the parcel actually functions as is:

- River-corridor buffer landscape
- A federal-adjacent transition zone between Lompoc and Vandenberg Space Force Base
- An infrastructure-separation corridor
- Open-space and habitat continuity area within the ancestral homeland of the Chumash people

Leave93436.org has formally asked Congressman Salud Carbajal's office to initiate inquiry with relevant federal agencies about designating a portion of APN 095-040-011 as a public park or federally managed conservation and recreation area.⁶ If such a designation moves forward, it would permanently remove this parcel from any municipal annexation pathway and resolve the current boundary ambiguity in a way that fits the parcel's ecological, cultural, and buffer-zone functions.

LAFCO staff should verify: (1) whether the parcel's inclusion in any Lompoc boundary or SOI layer reflects a formally adopted LAFCO action or an administrative mapping assumption; (2) whether any portion of APN 095-040-011 is federal land that cannot be annexed under state law; and (3) the basis for any prior designation that placed this parcel within Lompoc's boundary layer. Adjusting Sphere boundaries to reflect updated service-efficiency and land-status conditions does not, on its own, trigger project-level environmental review.⁷

Emergency Access and Circulation Constraints

The primary evacuation routes for the subject communities are Highway 1, Purisima Road, Santa Lucia Canyon Road, and Floradale Avenue corridor connections. These routes already run at or near capacity during wildfire events. When the Santa Lucia Fire broke out on November 7, 2024, residents sat in evacuation queues for up to 45 minutes, and that was without any new density added to the area.

Every interior street in southern Vandenberg Village funnels onto Constellation Avenue before reaching Highway 1. That is a functional single-point-of-failure evacuation corridor. The only secondary outlet, Mercury Avenue, requires CHP-controlled lane restriction and cannot be counted on under surge conditions. The southwestern boundary abuts military land with no public egress.

Pushing municipal Sphere assumptions into areas with this kind of constrained evacuation geometry runs counter to orderly service-extension principles under Government Code §56425. It would also prop up unsupported density expectations in an already-constrained evacuation basin.

Fire Hazard Exposure

The subject communities sit within mapped Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones and rely on County-structured wildfire response. On April 7, 2026, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors noted, while rejecting the Richards Ranch annexation, that the County's fire response model, with paramedics on every engine, delivers a higher level of service than what the City of Lompoc currently offers. That finding carries the same weight when applied to the north-of-river communities, whose fire protection would change hands under annexation.

Extending municipal Sphere assumptions into areas with elevated wildfire exposure and constrained evacuation geometry does not make service delivery more efficient. It introduces additional public-safety risk.

Federal Adjacency and Corridor Buffer Function

The subject communities and APN 095-040-011 sit adjacent to Vandenberg Space Force Base and the Santa Ynez River corridor open-space system. These lands serve as regional habitat buffers, wildfire-interface transition zones, agricultural continuity areas, and infrastructure-separation corridors. They lie within the ancestral homeland of the Chumash people and carry cultural and historical significance that predates contemporary federal use.

Municipal expansion assumptions do not fit with the long-term service patterns tied to federal-adjacent buffer landscapes. The federal government does not treat municipal Sphere of Influence designations as grounds for extending services onto federal land. And the presence of Space Force and BOP operations creates long-term security and land-use constraints that are incompatible with urban annexation planning.

Impact on Existing Residents and Service Relationships

Government Code §56425(e) requires LAFCO to evaluate the present and probable future need for public services in the subject territory. That evaluation is incomplete without disclosing the regulatory consequences that would follow from any annexation enabled by an expanded Sphere. The following confirmed regulatory changes are material to that analysis and have not been publicly disclosed in connection with this SOI proceeding.

Electric Service – Lompoc Electric¹³

Residents would be switched from PG&E to Lompoc Electric. The confirmed restrictions include:

- Net energy metering (NEM) has been closed to new enrollments since 2014 — existing PG&E NEM agreements would not transfer
- No retail credit for exported solar generation; only wholesale pricing applies (Schedule G-1)
- Distribution charges apply to self-generated energy
- Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) transfer to the City, not to the property owner
- Third-party Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) are prohibited
- A two-meter configuration is required, which means additional hardware cost
- Pre-approval is required for all new solar installations

Water Softening

Lompoc Municipal Code §13.16.320 (Chapter 13.16, Wastewater) prohibits discharge of water softening waste. No such prohibition exists under current county jurisdiction, and no grandfathering mechanism has been identified.

When annexation imposes more restrictive utility regulations on residents who never petitioned for incorporation — and does so without disclosing the impact — it fails to meet the service efficiency standard under Government Code §56425(e).

Service Efficiency Considerations

Keeping County-structured service delivery in place is the most efficient long-term configuration for the north-of-river communities. Each of the following conditions independently supports that conclusion:

- Municipal potable water infrastructure is entirely absent north of the river
- County Fire delivers a higher service level than Lompoc Fire — paramedics on every engine, as confirmed by the BOS on April 7, 2026
- Circulation capacity is constrained, with single-corridor evacuation dependency
- Wildfire exposure is elevated across Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones
- Emergency-access geometry is limited and already under stress
- A permanent river corridor separates these communities from the Lompoc municipal grid
- The federal land status of APN 095-040-011 takes the corridor parcel off the table for annexation
- A federal park designation inquiry is pending on APN 095-040-011
- Extending Lompoc municipal infrastructure would require new backbone facilities, not logical system expansion
- Annexation would impose more restrictive utility regulations without any resident petition
- No resident petition for annexation exists from any affected community

The Richards Ranch BOS decision of April 7, 2026 shows that this Commission's parent jurisdiction applies a rigorous fiscal and service-efficiency test to annexation proposals, a test that the Lompoc SOI reaffirmation does not pass. What the proposed SOI reaffirmation actually reflects is a continuation of prior mapping assumptions, not an evaluation of updated service-efficiency conditions affecting north-of-river lands.⁸

Health Facility Expansion as Manufactured Nexus

Lompoc Valley Medical Center (LVMC) is opening a clinic in Vandenberg Village in 2026. LVMC is a separate legal entity from the City of Lompoc, governed by an independently elected hospital district board. It is not a City department, does not operate under City administrative authority, and its service delivery decisions are made independently of City planning.

LVMC's clinic siting does not constitute municipal service delivery for purposes of Government Code §56425. Where a hospital district chooses to locate a clinical facility is an institutional decision made within the district's independent governance structure. It does not establish service integration between the City of Lompoc and north-of-river communities, and should not be weighted as such in the MSR analysis.

Note Regarding Submitted Analysis

The primary planning representative who appeared on behalf of the City of Lompoc at the April 2, 2026 hearing is a contract planner employed by Urban Planning Concepts, Inc. (UPC). Public records identify UPC as the firm currently preparing the City of Lompoc 2050 General Plan update, including the Circulation Element that references Vandenberg Village and Mission Hills as communities within Lompoc's transit service area. Public project records also identify UPC as a consultant on private development proposals located within the Sphere area under evaluation in this proceeding.

LAFCO staff should independently verify service-efficiency determinations that originate from this representative, given UPC's concurrent roles in General Plan preparation and private development entitlement work within the subject area.

Requested MSR Determinations

We respectfully request that LAFCO staff consider the following findings within the Municipal Service Review:

1. Classification of Vandenberg Village, Mission Hills, Mesa Oaks, and Purisima Highlands as a Non-Urban Service Area, excluded from the City of Lompoc Sphere of Influence
2. Removal of APN 095-040-011 from any City of Lompoc Sphere of Influence or boundary designation, with LAFCO staff directed to verify the prior action, if any, that placed this federal-associated parcel within the Lompoc boundary layer
3. Recognition of the Santa Ynez River corridor as the permanent northern municipal service boundary of the City of Lompoc for all future Sphere of Influence, annexation, and infrastructure planning purposes
4. Recognition that legacy wastewater conveyance infrastructure through APN 095-040-011 does not, by itself, establish municipal service integration or support continued Sphere inclusion
5. Recognition that COLT transit service to north-of-river communities does not amount to integrated municipal service delivery for purposes of Government Code §56425
6. Confirmation that keeping County-level service delivery in place, including County Fire with paramedic capability, represents the most efficient long-term service structure for the subject communities
7. Recognition that annexation-triggered utility regulatory changes are material impacts on existing residents under Government Code §56425(e) and require disclosure before any SOI expansion
8. Notation that a federal park and conservation designation inquiry is pending on APN 095-040-011 through Congressman Carbajal's office, which if it moves forward would permanently resolve the parcel's status

The Commission retains full authority to modify Sphere boundaries where updated service-efficiency findings support revision, and to contract the Sphere where inclusion is not supported by current service-efficiency conditions.¹¹

Conclusion

The Santa Ynez River is not just a convenient planning boundary. It is the physical, infrastructural, and governmental boundary that has defined the actual limit of City of Lompoc service delivery for the entire history of the north-of-river communities. No Lompoc water crosses it. No Lompoc roads maintain it. No Lompoc fire stations serve north of it. The federal land occupying the corridor between Lompoc and Vandenberg Village cannot be annexed. And the communities north of the river did not petition for annexation, they are in fact, not asking to be served by Lompoc.

The proposed SOI reaffirmation and northward expansion serves the planning and development interests of the City of Lompoc and its contract consultants. It does not reflect the service-efficiency criteria of Government Code §56425, the expressed preferences of affected residents, or the physical and governmental realities on the ground.

Classifying the north-of-river communities as a Non-Urban Service Area, removing APN 095-040-011 from any Lompoc Sphere designation, and formally recognizing the Santa Ynez River as Lompoc's permanent northern municipal service boundary is consistent with Government Code §56425, backed by decades of actual service patterns, and in the long-term interest of orderly governance in northern Santa Barbara County.¹²

Respectfully,

*Leave93436.org
office@leave93436.org
www.leave93436.org*

Notes

- ¹ Santa Barbara LAFCO Regular Meeting Transcript, April 2, 2026, procedural clarification regarding staged Sphere adoption process.
- ² Santa Barbara LAFCO Regular Meeting Transcript, April 2, 2026, staff description of periodic Sphere review cycle.
- ³ City of Lompoc 2050 General Plan, Circulation Element, Public Hearing Draft, September 2025, Transit section, p. 19: "The City of Lompoc serves as a vital transportation link...for...the residents of the unincorporated communities of Vandenberg Village and Mission Hills."
- ⁴ LUSD Land Use Due Diligence and Site Assessment Summary Memorandum, RRM Design Group, October 9, 2025, p. 16 (citing COLT Route 4 transit stop on Jupiter Avenue near Constellation Road as project amenity for proposed 200-unit development).
- ⁵ Leave93436.org, Request to Initiate Discussion on Federal Park Designation – APN 095-040-011, letter to Congressman Salud Carbajal, February 2, 2026.
- ⁶ Ibid.
- ⁷ Santa Barbara LAFCO Regular Meeting Transcript, April 2, 2026, staff response regarding CEQA implications of Sphere revisions.
- ⁸ Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors, April 7, 2026, 3-1 vote rejecting Richards Ranch tax exchange agreement (LAFCO File No. 24-08); Edhat, "40-Acre Richards Ranch Annexation Stalled," April 10, 2026; Noozhawk, April 7, 2026.
- ⁹ KSBY News, March 29, 2025; Santa Barbara Independent, June 25, 2025. The \$21 million figure represents projected annual loss under proposed federal Medicaid reductions to LVMC's operating budget of approximately \$162 million.
- ¹⁰ Santa Maria Times, "Urban Planning Concepts brings development plans to construction in Santa Maria," June 29, 2024 (updated August 3, 2025).
- ¹¹ Santa Barbara LAFCO Regular Meeting Transcript, April 2, 2026, Commission authority discussion regarding Sphere modification.
- ¹² Santa Barbara LAFCO Regular Meeting Transcript, April 2, 2026, staff recommendation regarding reaffirmation of existing Sphere boundaries.
- ¹³ City of Lompoc Utilities Department April 10th 2026: <http://www.cityoflompoc.com/government/departments/utilities/electric>

From: Jim Hatch <jim@hatchillustration.com>
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2026 1:25 PM
To: lafco@sblafco.org; cdow@cityofsantamaria.org
Subject: Santa Maria Main Street Annexation

Dear LAFCO Commissioners,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed annexation of land along East Main Street beyond Dressler Avenue in Santa Maria.

Traffic congestion on East Main Street is already significant at peak hours, largely due to nearby institutions such as Pioneer Valley High School and Marian Regional Medical Center, along with many other medical facilities in the area. Additional residential development would further strain an already overburdened corridor. A new gated 55+ community is also currently under construction nearby, and its full traffic and infrastructure impacts have yet to be realized.

Beyond traffic concerns, this annexation would result in the loss of some of the region's most productive agricultural land. Preserving fertile farmland is critical for the long-term sustainability and economic health of our community, and converting it to residential use is a short-sighted decision.

I am also concerned about the proximity of the proposed development to the local landfill, which may pose environmental and quality-of-life issues for future residents.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Commission to deny or reconsider this annexation proposal.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please let me know how I can stay informed and participate further in this process.

Sincerely,
James R Hatch

805-962-3360

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

Filing of Notice of Exemption in Compliance with Section 21108 of the Public Resources Code

TO: County Clerk
County of Santa Barbara
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara CA 93101

FROM: Local Agency Formation Commission 105
East Anapamu Street, Room 407 Santa
Barbara CA 93101
805/568-3391

PROJECT TITLE: SPHERE OF INFLUENCE UPDATE FOR CITIES OF BUELLTON, CARPINTERIA, GUADALUPE, GOLETA, LOMPOC, SANTA BARBARA, SANTA MARIA, AND SOLVANG LOCATED IN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

PROJECT LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION:

Project Location:

The jurisdictional boundaries of all eight Cities are included, all located in Santa Barbara County.

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

LAFCO has prepared a Sphere of Influence (SOI) Update and Municipal Service Review for all eight agencies identified above. The SOI is a 20-year growth boundary that includes areas that may be served by a City in the future. This SOI update recommends maintaining the same boundaries for the City of Buellton, City of Carpinteria, City of Guadalupe, City of Goleta, City of Lompoc, City of Santa Barbara, City of Santa Maria, and City of Solvang. The SOI for the seven cities **will not** change from the existing SOI. The Sphere of Influence for the City of Santa Barbara is recommended to add a small area near Sunrise Hill. The Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Act calls for the Service Review to be completed either prior to or concurrent with, the Sphere of Influence update. The five Service Reviews evaluate the public services provided by all eight agencies and provides the information base for updating the SOIs.

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out the Project:

Santa Barbara Local Agency Formation Commission

Reasons for Exemption. The proposed Sphere of Influence Update and Municipal Services Review does not involve, authorize or permit the siting or construction of any facilities. The MSR is categorically exempt from the preparation of environmental documentation under a classification related to information gathering (Class 6 - Regulation Section 15306). CEQA Guidelines 15378(b)(5) qualifies because no change of the sphere of influence is being adopted for the Cities of Buellton, Carpinteria, Guadalupe, Goleta, Lompoc, Santa Maria, and Solvang. The City of Santa Barbara's updated SOI would be exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to CEQA Guidelines 15301, 15303, 15311, and 15315 because a small area is being added to the existing sphere of influence. Therefore, categorical exemptions are applicable. The listed exception under section 15300.2 for class 3 would not apply in this case since the allowable developments are not located in a sensitive location, historic resource, or hazardous sites. In addition, The areas in which the future projects are located are not environmentally sensitive.



Mike Prater, Executive Officer

April 16, 2026

Date

A Sphere of Influence is a plan for probable, physical boundary and service areas of a local agency or jurisdiction. As such, it does not give property inside the Sphere boundary any more development rights than what already exist. The Sphere of Influence Boundary is a long-range planning tool that assists LAFCO in making decisions about a jurisdiction's future boundary. The Sphere indicates areas that might be served by an agency. It is unknown if an area will ever be annexed to the agency. Also, it is often uncertain what type of precise land use is going to be proposed for a specific area. In the case of Santa Barbara City's Sphere of Influence Update, existing development exists in the expansion area.

The study of impacts associated with the Sphere of Influence is often speculative since it is unclear what type of project might be proposed or if an area will even be annexed in the future. The City and County studies impacts comprehensively when a project-specific environmental review is completed.

Santa Barbara City – Study Area 5 from Water, Wastewater MSR for Sunrise Hill area, *no development is being contemplated and the land use regulations for the area would not be expected to change upon future annexation. Development could occur under unincorporated County rules and regulations for minor additions to SFR, new SFR or ADU, and minor land divisions that would qualify under a category exemption.*

The Santa Barbara Local Agency Formation Commission will approve the above-referenced project on May 7, 2026 and has determined it to be exempt from further environmental review under the requirements of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) of 1970, as defined in the State and local Guidelines for the implementation of CEQA.

Exempt Status:

- Ministerial
- Statutory
- Categorical Exemption:
Information gather pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15306. Class 6; Sections 15378(b)(5) no change to SOI boundary, Sections 15301 class 1, 15303 class 3, 15311 class 11, and 15315 class 15
- Emergency Project
- No Possibility of Significant Effect [Sec. 15061 (b,3)]

By: _____
Executive Officer

Date: 5/7/26