

SANTA BARBARA LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION
EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

August 7, 2008 (Agenda)

- LAFCO 08-6: Orcutt Fire Reorganization: Dissolution of Orcutt Fire Protection District / Annexation to the Santa Barbara County Fire Protection District;
- PROPONENT: Joint Resolution of Orcutt Fire Protection District (Resolution 031108) and the Board of Supervisors (Resolution 08-133).
- ACREAGE & LOCATION All territory within the Orcutt Fire Protection District as of April 15, 2008.
- PURPOSE: To achieve greater efficiency and economy in providing fire prevention and suppression services and reflect the contractual transfer of fire suppression and emergency medical services within the Orcutt area.

GENERAL ANALYSIS:

Description of Project

The proposal is to concurrently dissolve the Orcutt Fire Protection District and annex the territory within the District to the Santa Barbara County Fire Protection District. All assets, real and monetary dissolving District will be transferred to the annexing District.

History and Background

The Orcutt Fire Protection District was formed on June 4, 1928 and operates pursuant to the Fire Protection District Law on 1987 (Health and Safety Code, Section 13800 et seq.).

It provides fire prevention and suppression, emergency medical response, building code review, fire safety education and other emergency activities.

The District is located in northern Santa Barbara County and includes a portion of the Orcutt community located south of the City of Santa Maria. The District boundaries and sphere of influence are coterminous. It is totally surrounded by the Santa Barbara County FPD.

The District is governed by a three-member board of directors. It adopted a joint resolution with the Board of Supervisors to initiate this reorganization.

Due to the Memorandum of Understanding, which is appended to the enclosed resolution initiating the reorganization (Exhibit A), the employees currently providing fire protection services within the Orcutt FPD are County FPD staff. The purpose of the reorganization will modify governmental boundaries to reflect this contractual change in service responsibilities.

Due to this reorganization there will be more of a regional approach to providing fire prevention and suppress activities for the entire Orcutt community and surrounding unincorporated areas. We understand that this change is facilitated by the County closing its fire station located within the City of Santa Maria near the Santa Maria Airport and being able to transfer personnel to the fire station located within the community of Orcutt.

Project Information

1. Land Use, Planning and Zoning - Present and Future:

The property is within the sphere of influence of the County Fire Protection District.

The site consists of approximately 344 acres within the community of Orcutt. It includes a variety of residential, commercial, institutional, open space and some public uses.

The County General Plan and zoning designations for the proposal area include residential; commercial, institutional and open space.

There will be no change in land use, general plans or zoning as a result of this reorganization.

Surrounding land uses include residential and commercial to the east and west, residential, parks and open space to the north and residential to the south.

2. Topography, Natural Features and Drainage Basins

The topography of the reorganization and surrounding areas is generally level with some gently rolling hills. There are no significant natural boundaries affecting the proposal.

3. Population:

There are approximately 868 dwelling units within the Orcutt FPD. Due to the nature of the proposal no new homes are proposed or will result from this annexation.

4. Governmental Services and Controls - Need, Cost, Adequacy and Availability:

The annexing district will provide fire protection, suppression and emergency medical services comparable to those presently provided elsewhere within the District. These services are already being provided by contract between the Orcutt and County FPDs.

5. Environmental Impact of the Proposal:

LAFCO is the lead agency. It is recommended the Commission find the reorganization to be categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to Class 20 - Changes in government organization where the changes do not change the geographical area in which previously existing powers are exercised, and direct staff to issue the enclosed Notice of Exemption.

6. Boundaries and Lines of Assessment:

The boundaries are definite and certain and contiguous to the existing District boundaries. The reorganization will eliminate an "island" within the County FPD.

7. Assessed Value, Tax Rates and Indebtedness:

The annexation includes the entire assessed value of the Orcutt Fire Protection District (\$182,256,823). Overall tax rates will not be affected by this change. The annexing agency has no existing indebtedness.

ALTERNATIVES FOR COMMISSION ACTION

Following review of any testimony and materials that are submitted, the Commission should consider the following options:

OPTION 1 – Adopt this report and APPROVE the proposal.

- A. Find the proposal to be categorically exempt and direct staff to issue a notice of exemption pursuant to Class 20.
- B. Adopt this report and approve the proposal to be known as the Orcutt Fire Reorganization: Dissolution of the Orcutt Fire Protection District / Annexation to the Santa Barbara County Fire Protection District
- C. Direct the staff to initiate and conduct subsequent proceedings in compliance with the decision of the Local Agency Formation Commission only upon the signing of the resolution by the Chair.

OPTION 2 – Adopt this report and DENY the proposal:

OPTION 3 - CONTINUE this proposal to a future meeting for additional information.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Approve OPTION 1.

BOB BRAITMAN
Executive Officer
LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

Exhibit A – Joint Resolution of Application and Memorandum of Understanding