

1. INTRODUCTION

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

The MSR evaluates services provided by the District and issues regarding its sphere of influence. It describes service delivery and related issues for LAFCO to consider and presents determinations as required by law. The decision to approve or disapprove any determinations or policies rests entirely with the Commission.

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

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

2. MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW

Description of District

The District was formed in 1941 and operates pursuant to the County Water District Law (Water Code, Section 30000 et seq.).

It is located in southern Santa Barbara County, extending from Ventura County on the east to the vicinity of Toro Canyon Road on the west. It extends inland from the ocean and in some areas overlaps the Las Padres National Forest.

The District is governed by a five-member board of directors, elected at-large. A General Manager is responsible for administrative functions.

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

District Services

The District provides retail water delivery and conservation. It services approximately 4,160 water connections, which represent about 6,787 equivalent dwelling units.

Other Governmental Agencies within the District

Local agencies that overlap the District include the City of Carpinteria, Carpinteria Sanitary District, Carpinteria-Summerland Fire Protection District, County Service Area

11 (Parks), County Service Area 32 (Law Enforcement) and Mosquito and Vector Management District of Santa Barbara County.

3 . M S R D E T E R M I N A T I O N S

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

Infrastructure Needs and Deficiencies

The District's Strategic and Capital Facilities Plan (February 1999) identified facilities planned by the District to serve water in adequate quantity and quality to its customers, including agricultural, residential and commercial/ industrial users. Since then the District has completed major portions of a \$30 million Capital Improvement Program to address safe drinking water standards as well as enhanced reliability.

The District has also completed and adopted an Urban Water Management Plan and Water Shortage Contingency Plan (updated in 2011).

The District is addressing current and projected service demands from its three sources of water: Cachuma Project, State Water Project and groundwater.

Growth and Population Projections

The District accepts the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments' population growth projections for its planning purposes and anticipates having the capacity to provide water for projected uses.

Financing Constraints and Opportunities

The District imposes service charges. It is reasonable to conclude these revenue sources are sufficient to fund its obligations for service including system improvements.

Cost-Avoidance Opportunities

There are no obvious cost avoidance opportunities in water operations.

Opportunities for Rate Restructuring

There are no obvious opportunities for rate restructuring, although the adoption of each rate ordinance amendment allows this subject to be studied.

Opportunities for Shared Facilities

There are no obvious opportunities for shared facilities in the operations of the District. The District cooperates with other water agencies in building and operating the facilities that provide or treat much of the District's water supply, specifically the City of Santa

Barbara (Cater Water Treatment Plant), Central Coast Water Authority for State Water Project deliveries, the Bureau of Reclamation for water stored in Lake Cachuma behind Bradbury Dam, and the Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board for water delivered from Lake Cachuma through the Tecolote Tunnel into the South Coast Conduit system, including the Ortega and Carpinteria balancing reservoirs.

Government Structure Options

Consolidation or merger with other Carpinteria area local agencies, after completion of feasibility studies, could possibly lead to reduced overall costs and greater efficiency in the use of personnel and equipment in the Carpinteria Valley.

Management Efficiencies

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

Local Accountability and Governance

The District is a relatively compact government, which enhances the ability of the public to participate in its activities. The Board of Directors is elected by and accountable to the voters who reside in the District. The Board meets routinely in Carpinteria City Hall to ensure they are televised and recorded, and the District publishes ads in the newspaper and sends messages with its bills.

4. SPHERE OF INFLUENCE REVIEW AND UPDATE

Description of Current Sphere of Influence

The District's boundaries and sphere of influence are coterminous.

No Proposed Sphere Changes

In response to the MSR Request for Information, the District responded as follows:

Do you feel that your agency's boundary is correct at this time? Yes.

Except for a portion of the Rincon coastline in Ventura County that should perhaps be included in the District since it is providing water to the area through an agreement with the Casitas Municipal Water District.

Are there areas your agency desires or plans to serve that are not now within is boundaries or its sphere of influence? No

Are there areas your agency currently serves that might be served more efficiently by another agency? No

Sphere of Influence Determinations

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

5 . A C K N O W L E D G E M E N T S & R E F E R E N C E S

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

The Carpinteria Valley Water District provided the basic information and documents upon which the evaluation is based. The District staff, notably General Manager Charles Hamilton, was instrumental in providing data.

Mapping services were provided by the County Surveyor.

6 . R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S

It is recommended the Commission affirm the current Sphere of Influence.