

LAFCO

Santa Barbara Local Agency Formation Commission

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March 6, 2008 (Agenda)

Local Agency Formation Commission
105 East Anapamu Street, Room 403
Santa Barbara CA 93101

Procedures for Conducting Protest Hearings

Dear Members of the Commission:

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended the Commission authorize the staff to provide standardized protest forms to landowners and registered voters with the notice of protest hearings.

DISCUSSION

This matter was considered by the Commission on March 6 and continued to this meeting for further consideration and possible action.

The staff has conducted protest hearings in recent months for two boundary changes. In both instances we mailed notices of the protest hearing to each registered voter and landowner within the proposal with detailed procedures for submitting valid protests.

Despite what we believed were clear and complete instructions for filing protests, we received a several invalid submittals. Some failed to identify whether the protest was by a registered voter, a landowner or both. We disqualified some protests because they were not dated or did not adequately identify the individual's property.

To improve the process we are recommending the Commission authorize the staff to provide a standardized "protest form." It would be distributed to those who receive the notice of hearing and would also be available on the LAFCO website.

In preparing this report we conferred with other LAFCOs and were informed many use a similar procedure with a standardized protest form.

Local Agency Formation Commission
June 5, 2008 (Agenda)
Page 2 of 4

Valid written protests will be accepted whether or not they are on the standard form – provided they include the required contents – but having this protest form will be a significant improvement in our process and will assist the general public.

Please contact the LAFCO office if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,

BOB BRAITMAN
Executive Officer

Date _____

To: Executive Officer
Santa Barbara Local Agency Formation Commission
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

RE: Name of Proposal _____

Note: You must check Registered Voter or Landowner or both for this form to be complete.

I hereby protest this boundary change

As a **REGISTERED VOTER** within the boundary change area, registered to vote at

Street address (a Post Office Box is not acceptable)

City and Zip Code

I hereby protest this annexation

As a **LANDOWNER** within the boundary change area whose property is located at

Street address (a Post Office Box is not acceptable)

City and Zip Code

Assessor's Parcel Number (If known)

Signature

Print Name

Mailing address