

# **CACHUMA RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

## **MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW AND SPHERE OF INFLUENCE UPDATE**

Report to the  
**Santa Barbara Local Agency  
Formation Commission**

August 2006

## 1. INTRODUCTION

This report regarding the Cachuma Resource Conservation 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. MSR Guidelines prepared by the State Office of Planning and Research were referred to in developing information, performing analysis and organizing this study.

This report 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 Cachuma Resource Conservation District was formed in 1992 and operates pursuant the Resource Conservation District Law (Public Resources Code §9151 et seq.)

A nine-member board of directors, appointed by the Board of Supervisors, governs the District. A General Manager is responsible for administrative functions.

The District boundaries and sphere of influence include the entire County and portions of Kern and San Luis Obispo Counties. The District results from the consolidation in 1992 of the Cachuma and Lompoc RCDs. A map of the District and its sphere are included.

### District Services

The District provides technical assistance to landowners and services related to the improvement of land capabilities, conservation of resources, prevention and control of soil erosion and public education.

There are five District employees, primarily field personnel providing District services and consulting support throughout the County.

### Other Governmental Agencies within the District

The District overlaps all other local agencies in the County and some in Kern and San Luis Obispo Counties.

## 3 . MSR DETERMINATIONS

This portion of the report addresses the factors specified in LAFCO's governing statute for the MSR for the Cachuma Resource Conservation District.

### **Infrastructure Needs and Deficiencies**

The District's office is in Santa Maria but its services are available to private properties and landowners throughout the County.

### **Growth and Population Projections**

District services do not generally affect the rate or location of population development.

### **Financing Constraints and Opportunities**

The District's annual revenue is approximately \$359,000. Of this, about \$57,000 is from property tax and the remainder is primarily State and Federal grants for land conservation and stewardship.

### **Cost-Avoidance Opportunities**

There are no obvious cost avoidance opportunities.

### **Opportunities for Rate Restructuring**

There are no obvious opportunities for rate restructuring.

### **Opportunities for Shared Facilities**

There are no obvious opportunities for shared facilities in the operations of the District.

### **Government Structure Options**

There are no obvious governmental structure options for this District; it results from the consolidation of similar agencies in the County and is now Countywide in scope.

### **Management Efficiencies**

Given its limited funding the District exhibits the characteristics of a well-managed agency operating efficiently and serving its constituents effectively.

### **Local Accountability and Governance**

The District's governing board is appointed by the Board of Supervisors

## **4. SPHERE OF INFLUENCE REVIEW AND UPDATE**

### Description of Current Sphere of Influence

The District boundaries and sphere of influence include the entire County and portions of Kern and San Luis Obispo Counties. A map of the District and its sphere are included.

### No Proposed Sphere Changes

There are no sphere changes proposed or anticipated at this time.

### 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 Cachuma Resource Conservation District provided basic information upon which the evaluation is based. The District staff, notably General Manager Tom Lockhart was responsible for providing data.

Mapping services were provided by JDL Mapping.

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

In consideration of information gathered and evaluated during the Municipal Service Review it is recommended the Commission affirm the current Sphere of Influence and that it not be expanded or revised at this time.

