

LAFCO

Santa Barbara Local Agency Formation Commission

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May 6, 2010 (Agenda)

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

Updating City and Special District Spheres of Influence

Dear Members of the Commission

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended the Commission receive and file this status report on the program to review and update Spheres of Influence.

DISCUSSION

LAFCO is required to adopt a “sphere of influence” for each city and special district. A Sphere of Influence is defined in Government Code §56076 as a “. . . plan for the probable physical boundaries and service area . . .” of each local agency as adopted by LAFCO.

Section 56425 states that “On or before January 1, 2008, and every five years thereafter, the commission shall, as necessary, review and update each sphere of influence.”

Moreover, §56430 states that “In order to prepare and to update spheres of influence in accordance with Section 56425, the commission shall conduct a service review of the municipal services provided in the county or other appropriate area designated by the commission.”

The Santa Barbara LAFCO has complied with the requirements to prepare Municipal Service Reviews and adopt Spheres of Influence for each city and special district. Earlier this year, on January 7, it received a report from the staff regarding a program to review and update Spheres.

The Commission directed staff to confer with local agencies regarding whether factual changes or circumstances necessitate preparing a new service review to update their existing sphere.

Staff has communicated with all cities and special districts. Of the responses we have received, many local agencies would like us to update factual data in our files but we have heard from very few who would like to revise their Sphere of Influence.

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Thus far we have formally heard from three of the eight cities, from 18 of the 35 independent special districts and none of the 13 County-governed dependent special districts.

We are continuing to work with the local agencies who have not responded. When additional responses are received we will present a proposed schedule for the Commission to hear and update Spheres of Influence within the statutory time limits.

Please contact the LAFCO office if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

BOB BRAITMAN
Executive Officer