

**COUNTY SERVICE AREA NO. 41
(RANCHO SANTA RITA)**

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

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

August 2006

1. INTRODUCTION

This report regarding County Service Area No. 41 (Rancho Santa Rita) 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 District was formed in 1983 and operates pursuant to the County Service Area Law (Government Code, Section 25210 et seq.).

The District is governed by the Board of Supervisors and administered by the County Public Works Department. The CSA 41 Road Committee, composed of affected property owners, serves as an active advisory committee to the County.

The District is located in northern Santa Barbara County north of Highway 246, between the Cities of Lompoc and Buellton. It includes 51 large-lot parcels in the Rancho Santa Rita subdivision adjacent to Cebada Canyon Road. It maintains the following private roads: Avena, Catalina, Crucero, Flora and Wild Oak.

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

District Services

The District funds and maintains private roadways in the Rancho Santa Rita subdivision. Private companies provide maintenance services through a competitive bidding process.

Other Governmental Agencies within the District

Local agencies that overlap the District are County Service Area 32 (Law Enforcement), Lompoc Cemetery District, Lompoc Health Care District, Mosquito and Vector Management District of Santa Barbara County, Santa Barbara County Fire Protection District and Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District.

3. MSR DETERMINATIONS

This portion of the report addresses the factors specified in LAFCO's governing statute for the MSR for County Service Area No. 41.

Infrastructure Needs and Deficiencies

The district maintains private roads in the Rancho Santa Rita tract. The District reports it does not have a Capital Improvement Plan and road maintenance is provided as needed.

Growth and Population Projections

District services do not influence or affect growth and population projections. The area within the district is entirely subdivided to the extent permitted by current zoning.

Financing Constraints and Opportunities

The district is financed by assessments against each of the benefited parcels within the District. This source is sufficient to fund road maintenance services.

Cost-Avoidance Opportunities

There are no obvious cost avoidance opportunities; the majority of district cost involves contracting for maintenance services.

Opportunities for Rate Restructuring

There are opportunities for rate restructuring whenever assessments are calculated and levied for maintenance services.

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 opportunities for structural changes in the operation of the district.

Management Efficiencies

The district is managed by the County Public Works Department in conjunction with an advisory committee of affected landowners. Annual administrative fees are less than \$400 for a budget that exceeds \$25,000 dollars

Local Accountability and Governance

The district is governed by the Board of Supervisors, which is elected by districts each of which include approximately 20% of the total County population.

4. SPHERE OF INFLUENCE REVIEW AND UPDATE

Description of Current Sphere of Influence

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

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. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & REFERENCES

Available Documentation

The “Request for Information for Municipal Service Reviews” submitted by the district and the supporting documents referred to therein are available in the LAFCO office.

Brian Just, Chair of the CSA 41 Road Committee, provided the basic information and documents upon which the evaluation is based.

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

Mapping services were provided by JDL Mapping.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

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.

