

LAFCO

Santa Barbara Local Agency Formation Commission

105 East Anapamu Street ♦ Santa Barbara CA 93101

805/568-3391 ♦ FAX 805/647-7647

www.sblafco.org ♦ lafco@sblafco.org

November 4, 2010 (Agenda)

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

Confirm Existing Spheres of Influence for Most Cities and Special Districts

Dear Members of the Commission:

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended the Commission accept public testimony and adopt the enclosed resolutions confirming the existing Spheres of Influence for the local agencies listed in Attachment A.

DISCUSSION

Background

A Sphere of Influence is defined in Government Code §56076 as "...a plan for the probable physical boundaries and service area. . ." of a city or special district as adopted by LAFCO.

Government Code §56425 describes the determinations LAFCO must make in adopting Spheres of Influence (SOIs) and the need for SOIs to list types of services currently being provided by special districts. (See Attachment B)

Government Code §56430 directs LAFCO to prepare Municipal Service Reviews (MSRs) to help inform Commission decisions regarding adopting or updating SOIs. (See Attachment C)

The Commission has fulfilled its statutory requirement to adopt written MSR determinations and adopt SOIs for cities and special districts within the County. Spheres have been adopted for each city and special district except for the Santa Rita Hills Community Services District and the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No. 1. These Spheres will be considered for adoption on December 2, 2010.

Statutory Requirement to Periodically Update Spheres of Influence

LAFCO's enabling statute, the Cortese-Knox Local Government Reorganization Act, as revised in 2001 states "On or before January 1, 2008, and every five years thereafter, the commission shall, as necessary, review and update each sphere of influence." (Emphasis added)

Earlier this year the Commission received staff recommendations on a procedure to review and update SOIs. The Commission-approved work plan directs the staff to confer with each city and special district to determine whether changes have occurred that would necessitate an in-depth MSR in conjunction with updating the agency's sphere.

If this initial review indicates no changes are needed in the current sphere, the LAFCO staff is to prepare a resolution for the Commission to confirm the existing sphere. If, on the other hand, the initial review indicates circumstances require a more detailed evaluation, the staff is to prepare a new MSR and SOI Update, with appropriate compliance with CEQA.

Cities and Special Districts Whose Spheres Are to Remain Unchanged

As a result of our review of the information provided by each agency, we recommend the Commission confirm existing Spheres of Influence for all of the agencies listed in Attachment A. This attachment identifies when the Sphere for each agency was last adopted.

Several agencies submitted updated data regarding such matters as personnel, budgets, numbers of connections and other details. Although each response states the existing Sphere is correct and should not be modified, the updated information is retained in the LAFCO office for future use and reference.

The seven cities and 39 special districts whose Spheres we recommend be confirmed constitute the great majority of local agencies in Santa Barbara County. Resolutions for approval by the Commission to adopt each of these existing Spheres are included with this report.

Some of the enclosed maps were recently prepared by the County Surveyor staff. The other maps were prepared by JDL Mapping for the 2005 and 2006 sphere updates.

Local Agencies Whose Sphere May be Modified

Some agencies have indicated interest in possible amendments to their Spheres. We have sent these agencies a "Questionnaire for Amending a Sphere of Influence."

With a completed questionnaire and any supporting information we will be able to evaluate the proposed change, prepare a staff report and schedule hearings for the Commission to consider the requests. We believe these can occur within the next six months for the following agencies.

- City of Goleta
- Carpinteria Sanitary District
- Santa Ynez Community Services District
- Vandenberg Village Community Services District

In addition sphere modifications may be justified for the following agencies.

- Carpinteria Valley Water District
- Goleta West Sanitary District
- Montecito Water District

Staff reports will be presented to the Commission at future meetings to either confirm the current sphere or recommend a modified sphere.

There are no further recommendations at this time regarding updating Spheres. Please contact the LAFCO staff if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,

BOB BRAITMAN
Executive Officer

cc: Each City and Special District