

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 receive this report and authorize staff to provide forms to landowners and registered voters who wish to protest boundary changes.

DISCUSSION

In recent months staff has conducted protest hearings for the Quail Run Reorganization and South Coast Annexation to the Carpinteria Sanitary District. In both instances we mailed notices of the hearing to each registered voter and landowner within the proposal. The notice described the procedure for submitting valid protests.

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

In order to improve the process and minimize future situations where the LAFCO staff is called on to judge whether a protest is valid, we are recommending that the Commission authorize the staff to provide a "protest form" with the mailed notice of hearing. This would be distributed to those who receive the notice 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.

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In future protest hearings valid written protests will be accepted whether or not they are on the form – provided they include the required contents – but having this standard protest form will be a significant improvement in our process and will assist the 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**
(LAFCO xx - xx)

Note: You may check either Registered Voter or Landowner or Both

I hereby protest this boundary change

As a **REGISTERED VOTER** within the annexation 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 annexation 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