

LAFCO

Santa Barbara Local Agency Formation Commission
105 East Anapamu Street ♦ Santa Barbara CA 93101
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November 1, 2007 (Agenda)

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

LAFCO 07-11 – Quail Run Reorganization

Dear Members of the Commission:

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended the Commission receive and file this report.

DISCUSSION

The Commission on September 6, 2007 approved the Quail Run Reorganization: Annexation to the City of Santa Maria and Detachments from the Santa Barbara County Fire Protection District and the Mosquito and Vector Management District.

Since written consent was not given by all affected landowners it was necessary to conduct a “protest hearing” to determine whether the proposal is recorded, proceeds to an election or is terminated. The LAFCO staff is responsible for noticing and conducting protest hearings.

In conducting a protest hearing it is necessary to send mailed notices to each registered voter and landowner within the reorganization boundaries. The Commission obtains mailing lists and labels from the County. The County Assessor maintains property ownership records and the County Elections Office is responsible for registered voter lists.

After the protest hearing on October 5 it was brought to our attention by the County Elections staff that we did not receive names and mailing labels for some of the registered voters residing within the reorganization. Of the 210 registered voters within the proposed boundary change we mailed notices to 165 voters based upon the information we had at that time. That is a difference of 45 registered voters

The County Elections office apologizes to the Commission for any inconvenience this oversight may cause.

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In consultation with legal counsel we have concluded the prudent course of action is to reopen the protest hearing and provide the required 21-day notice by publication, posting and mailing to each registered voter and landowner. We have scheduled that protest hearing for 11:00 am on Thursday, December 6 in the Commission Hearing Room in Santa Maria.

The notice for the reopened protest hearing makes it clear that any written protests that are already submitted are valid and will be counted. It is not necessary for registered voters or landowners to remit a second protest if they have already submitted one.

Since the noticing error is not the fault of the applicant we are not charging additional processing fees to the City of Santa Maria which initiated the boundary change.

Sincerely,

BOB BRAITMAN
Executive Officer