

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

February 2, 2012 (Agenda)

Local Agency Formation Commission

105 East Anapamu Street, Room 403

Santa Barbara CA 93101

Completion of Remaining MSRs and Sphere of Influence Updates

Dear Members of the Commission:

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended the Commission receive this report and direct staff to schedule public hearings to update the Spheres of Influence for the remaining local agencies:

Carpinteria Sanitary District
Carpinteria Valley Water District
County Service Area No. 4 (North Lompoc)
County Service Area No. 5 (Orcutt)
Goleta Water District
Goleta West Sanitary District
Laguna County Sanitation District
Montecito Water District
Santa Ynez Community Services District
Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District Improvement District No. 1
Vandenberg Village Community Services District

BACKGROUND

Spheres of Influence

Since 1971 LAFCOs have been required to adopt Spheres of Influence. As defined by Government Code Section 56076, a Sphere is a LAFCO-adopted "... plan for the probable physical boundaries and service area. . ." of each local agency.

The Commission is required to adopt a Sphere of Influence (or SOI) for each city and special district in the Santa Barbara County. Section 56425 specifically states:

Commissioners: Janet Wolf, Chair ♦ Lupe Alvarez ♦ Doreen Farr ♦ Jeff Moorhouse ♦ Bob Orach ♦ Cathy Schlottmann
Bob Short ♦ Joe Armendariz ♦ John Fox ♦ Steve Lavagnino ♦ Roger Welt **Executive Officer:** Bob Braitman

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7

“In order to carry out its purposes and responsibilities for planning and shaping the logical and orderly development and coordination of local governmental agencies to advantageously provide for the present and future needs of the county and its communities, the commission shall develop and determine the sphere of influence of each local governmental agency within the county and enact policies designed to promote the logical and orderly development of areas within the sphere.

“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)

The full text of Section 56425 is attached as Exhibit A.

Municipal Service Reviews

The law, which was amended in 2002 to require LAFCOs to update spheres of influence at least every five years, also created an entirely new obligation for LAFCOs, to conduct a municipal service review (or MSR) not later than the time it updates a Sphere of Influence.

Section 56430, attached as Exhibit B, directs the Commission to prepare specific determinations for these municipal service reviews.

Commission Program to Update Spheres of Influence

When the law was enacting requiring SOIs to be periodically updated, the Santa Barbara LAFCO undertook a comprehensive program to prepare MSRs and update all SOIs in the County. Most local agencies were studied by geographical area, others by the type of agency, i.e. cemetery districts and some were reviewed on a “stand alone” basis.

A large amount of data has been gathered and analyzed. The cooperation of local agencies was necessary for the success of this process and is very much appreciated.

Following public hearings, MSRs were approved and SOIs were updated for all of the cities and for most of the special districts. These updated SOIs provide an excellent “snapshot” of local government in Santa Barbara County including expectations for future growth or development and adequacy of public services presently being provided or planned for the future.

A list of agencies with updated SOIS is attached as Exhibit C.

Remaining Local Agencies

For various reasons, SOI updates for several local agencies have not been completed. It is recommended the Commission direct the staff to schedule public hearings to update the SOIs for these remaining local agencies which are discussed briefly below:

- Carpinteria Sanitary District – The staff has been in communication with the District staff regarding the possibility of expanding the existing District SOI which is largely coterminous with the District boundaries to include additional areas which may require or desire sewer services in the future.
- Carpinteria Valley Water District and Montecito Water District – The sphere updates for these two districts were held in abeyance while the proposed Edgewood Reorganization which would have altered the boundaries of both agencies was being considered. That application was denied in March 2011.
- County Service Area No. 4 (North Lompoc), County Service Area No. 5 (Orcutt) and Laguna County Sanitation District – The sphere updates for these three agencies have been delayed while the County Surveyor office prepares acceptable maps of the existing spheres.
- Goleta Water District – When this district sphere update was originally scheduled for hearing members of the Commission asked the matter be continued to a future Commission meeting.
- Goleta West Sanitary District – The sphere update hearing was held in abeyance due to a proposal by the City of Goleta to detach incorporated territory from the District. The City has withdrawn that proposal.
- Santa Ynez Community Services District - The staff has been in communication with the District staff regarding the possibility of expanding the existing District SOI. We have not received an application to include these additional areas.
- Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District Improvement District No. 1 – The Commission is aware of the ongoing communications with District Directors, staff and legal counsel which may result in a Memorandum of Understanding between LAFCO and the District, possibly in conjunction with adoption of the District Sphere.
- Vandenberg Village Community Services District – The sphere update was held in abeyance pending an expansion of the District Sphere that was approved in April 2011.

Conclusion

The Commission is complying with the requirement to periodically update Spheres of Influence. The purposes of this report are to (1) provide a status report on this process and (2) have the Commission direct staff to schedule public hearings to consider and update the remaining Spheres of Influence.

Please contact the LAFCO office if you have any questions

Very truly yours,



BOB BRAITMAN
Executive Officer

Exhibit A – Government Code Section 56425
Exhibit B – Government Code Section 56430
Exhibit C – Agencies with Updated Spheres of Influence

cc: Each Affected Local Agency

Government Code Section 56425

(a) In order to carry out its purposes and responsibilities for planning and shaping the logical and orderly development and coordination of local governmental agencies to advantageously provide for the present and future needs of the county and its communities, the commission shall develop and determine the sphere of influence of each local governmental agency within the county and enact policies designed to promote the logical and orderly development of areas within the sphere.

(b) Prior to a city submitting an application to the commission to update its sphere of influence, representatives from the city and representatives from the county shall meet to discuss the proposed new boundaries of the sphere and explore methods to reach agreement on development standards and planning and zoning requirements within the sphere to ensure that development within the sphere occurs in a manner that reflects the concerns of the affected city and is accomplished in a manner that promotes the logical and orderly development of areas within the sphere. If an agreement is reached between the city and county, the city shall forward the agreement in writing to the commission, along with the application to update the sphere of influence. The city shall forward the agreement in writing to the commission, along with the application to update the sphere of influence. The commission shall consider and adopt a sphere of influence for the city consistent with the policies adopted by the commission pursuant to this section, and the commission shall give great weight to the agreement to the extent that it is consistent with commission policies in its final determination of the city sphere.

(c) If the commission's final determination is consistent with the agreement reached between the city and county pursuant to subdivision (b), the agreement shall be adopted by both the city and county after a noticed public hearing. Once the agreement has been adopted by the affected local agencies and their respective general plans reflect that agreement, then any development approved by the county within the sphere shall be consistent with the terms of that agreement.

(d) If no agreement is reached pursuant to subdivision (b), the application may be submitted to the commission and the commission shall consider a sphere of influence for the city consistent with the policies adopted by the commission pursuant to this section.

(e) In determining the sphere of influence of each local agency, the commission shall consider and prepare a written statement of its determinations with respect to each of the following:

(1) The present and planned land uses in the area, including agricultural and open-space lands.

(2) The present and probable need for public facilities and services in the area.

(3) The present capacity of public facilities and adequacy of public services that the agency provides or is authorized to provide.

(4) The existence of any social or economic communities of interest in the area if the commission determines that they are relevant to the agency.

(f) Upon determination of a sphere of influence, the commission shall adopt that sphere.

(g) On or before January 1, 2008, and every five years thereafter, the commission shall, as necessary, review and update each sphere of influence.

(h) The commission may recommend governmental reorganizations to particular agencies in the county, using the spheres of influence as the basis for those recommendations. Those recommendations shall be made available, upon request, to other agencies or to the public. The commission shall make all reasonable efforts to ensure wide public dissemination of the recommendations.

(i) When adopting, amending, or updating a sphere of influence for a special district, the commission shall do all of the following:

(1) Require existing districts to file written statements with the commission specifying the functions or classes of services provided by those districts.

(2) Establish the nature, location, and extent of any functions or classes of services provided by existing districts.

Government Code Section 56430

(a) 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 commission shall include in the area designated for service review the county, the region, the subregion, or any other geographic area as is appropriate for an analysis of the service or services to be reviewed, and shall prepare a written statement of its determinations with respect to each of the following:

- (1) Growth and population projections for the affected area.
- (2) Present and planned capacity of public facilities and adequacy of public services, including infrastructure needs or deficiencies.
- (3) Financial ability of agencies to provide services.
- (4) Status of, and opportunities for, shared facilities.
- (5) Accountability for community service needs, including governmental structure and operational efficiencies.
- (6) Any other matter related to effective or efficient service delivery, as required by commission policy.

(b) In conducting a service review, the commission shall comprehensively review all of the agencies that provide the identified service or services within the designated geographic area.

(c) The commission shall conduct a service review before, or in conjunction with, but no later than the time it is considering an action to establish a sphere of influence in accordance with Section 56425 or Section 56426.5 or to update a sphere of influence pursuant to Section 56425.

Local Agencies with Updated Spheres of Influence

City of Buellton
City of Carpinteria
City of Goleta
City of Guadalupe
City of Lompoc
City of Santa Barbara
City of Santa Maria
City of Solvang

Cachuma Resource Conservation District
Carpinteria Cemetery District
Carpinteria-Summerland Fire Protection District
Casmalia Community Services District
County Service Area No. 3 (Goleta Valley)
County Service Area No. 11 (Carpinteria Valley)
County Service Area No. 12 (Mission Canyon)
County Service Area No. 31 (Isla Vista)
County Service Area No. 32 (Unincorporated Police Services)
County Service Area No. 41 (Rancho Santa Rita)

Cuyama Valley Recreation and Park Services
Embarcadero Municipal Improvement District

Goleta Cemetery District
Goleta Sanitary District
Guadalupe Cemetery District
Guadalupe Lighting District
Isla Vista Recreation and Park District
Lompoc Cemetery District

Lompoc Valley Medical Center
Los Alamos Cemetery District
Los Alamos Community Services District
Mission Canyon Lighting
Mission Hills Community Services District

Montecito Fire Protection District
Montecito Sanitary District
Mosquito and Vector Control District of Santa Barbara County
Oak Hill Cemetery District

Santa Barbara County Fire Protection District
Santa Barbara Metropolitan Transit District
Santa Maria Cemetery District
Santa Maria Public Airport District
Santa Maria Valley Water Conservation District

Santa Rita Hills Community Services District
Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District
Summerland Sanitary District