

# LAFCO

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## Santa Barbara Local Agency Formation Commission

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March 1, 2012 (Agenda)

Local Agency Formation Commission

105 East Anapamu Street, Room 403

Santa Barbara CA 93101

### Goleta West Sanitary District - Sphere of Influence Update

Dear Members of the Commission:

#### RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended the Commission accept public testimony and adopt the enclosed resolution confirming the existing Sphere of Influence for the Goleta West Sanitary District.

#### DISCUSSION

##### Statutory Requirement to Periodically Update Spheres of Influence

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.

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

Government Code §56430 as enacted in 2001 directs LAFCO to prepare Municipal Service Reviews (MSRs) to help inform Commission decisions regarding adopting or updating SOIs.

Upon the enactment of this law the Commission considered Municipal Service Reviews and Sphere of Influence Updates for all cities and special districts in the County. The approved work plan directed the LAFCO 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 review indicated no changes are needed in the existing sphere, staff was to prepare a resolution for the Commission to confirm the existing sphere. If, on the other hand, the initial review indicated circumstances require a more detailed evaluation, the staff was to prepare a new MSR and SOI Update, including appropriate compliance with CEQA.

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

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Goleta West Sanitary District Sphere of Influence

In late 2005 the Commission reviewed Municipal Service Reviews and Spheres of Influence for local agencies in the Goleta Valley Area, including the Goleta West Sanitary District.

Following a public hearing, on September 1, 2005 the Commission approved Municipal Service Review determinations and affirmed the District's then existing Sphere of Influence.

In February 2009 the City of Goleta initiated a detachment from the District of territory located within the City boundaries (LAFCO 09-1). The City Council and Board of Supervisors approved a property tax exchange agreement for the proposed detachment.

The proceeding resulted in separate fiscal analyses prepared by consulting firms engaged by the City and the District. The LAFCO staff on February 3, 2010 notified the Commission that the City had withdrawn the application to detach territory from the District.

If the proposed detachment was completed it would have left an isolated portion of the District north of the City boundaries where sanitation services are not now provided. In November 2011 staff wrote to the District General Manager regarding excluding from the District Sphere of this approximately 1,112 acres designated as open space or agriculture on the County General Plan. The staff rescinded that letter in December.

It is recommended the Commission review the enclosed Municipal Service Review/Sphere of Influence Update for the District and confirm the existing sphere.

A map of the District boundary and its sphere as prepared by the County Surveyor is enclosed.

Please contact the LAFCO staff if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,



BOB BRAITMAN  
Executive Officer

cc: Mark Nation, General Manager, Goleta West Sanitary District