

# 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

### Montecito Water 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 of the Montecito Water District.

#### DISCUSSION

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

Government Code §56076 defines a Sphere of Influence 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

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review indicated circumstances require a more detailed evaluation, the staff was to prepare a new MSR and SOI Update, including appropriate compliance with CEQA.

Montecito Water District Sphere of Influence

In late 2005 the Commission reviewed Municipal Service Reviews and Spheres of Influence for local agencies in the Eastern South Coast Area, including the Montecito Water District.

Following a public hearing, on November 3, 2005 the Commission approved Municipal Service Review determinations and affirmed the District's then existing Sphere of Influence.

In 2010 the Commission confirmed existing Spheres of Influence for most of the agencies in the Eastern South Coast Area. However, the decision to update the Montecito Water District Sphere was delayed due to a proposed boundary change involving the District and adjacent Carpinteria Valley Water District.

That proceeding, known as the Edgewood Reorganization, was initiated by the petition signed by affected land owners, and would annex territory to the Carpinteria Water District while concurrently detaching it from the Montecito Water District. Following a public hearing on March 3, 2011, the Commission denied that proposed reorganization.

Now is the time to update the Montecito Water District Sphere of Influence. It is recommended the Commission confirm the District's 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: Tom Mosby, General Manager, Montecito Water District