

# LAFCO

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**Santa Barbara Local Agency Formation Commission**

105 East Anapamu Street ♦ Santa Barbara CA 93101

805/568-3391 ♦ FAX 805/568-2249

www.sblafco.org ♦ lafco@sblafco.org

December 12, 2024 (Agenda)

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

## **Consider Adoption of Countywide Service and Sphere Review for Parks, Recreation, Open Space, Library, And Facility Rental Services in Santa Barbara County**

Dear Members of the Commission

### RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Commission take the following action:

- a. Find, that the action is exempt from provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as “information collection” under Section 15306 of the State CEQA Guidelines and based on the determination that this action does not have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment (Section 15061(b)(3)). Find that Sections 15303 and 15319 of the State CEQA Guidelines are applicable;
- b. Determine, pursuant to Government Code Section 56425, that LAFCO is required to develop and determine a sphere of influence for the 18 affected agencies, and review and update, as necessary;
- c. Determine, pursuant to Government Code Section 56430, that LAFCO is required to conduct a service review before, or in conjunction with an action to establish or update a sphere of influence; and
- d. Adopt a Resolution (LAFCO No. 2024-XX) approving the 2024 Countywide Parks, Recreation, Open Space, Library, and Facility Rental Services and Sphere Review with the following terms and conditions:
  1. Affirming the currently adopted Spheres of Influence of the Cachuma Resources Conservation District, Cuyama Valley Recreation and Park District, Isla Vista Recreation and Park District, Los Alamos Community Services District, County Service Area 3, County Service Area 4, County Service Area 5, and County Service Area 11, as shown on Exhibits A, B, C, D, E, F, G, & H, and;

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**Commissioners:** Jay Freeman, Chair ♦ Craig Geyer ♦ Joan Hartmann ♦ James Kyriaco ♦ Jorge Magana ♦ Bob Nelson  
♦ Jenelle Osborne ♦ Alice Patino, Vice-Chair ♦ Jim Richardson ♦ Shane Stark ♦ Das Williams **Executive Officer:** Mike Prater

**BUSINESS ITEM No. 1**

DISCUSSION

State law requires LAFCO to periodically review and update the services and spheres of all cities and special districts. In accordance with the Commission’s adopted Multi-Year Work Program, LAFCO staff has prepared a countywide service and sphere review (refer to Attachment A) for the 18 local agencies that provide parks, recreation, open space, library, and facility rental services, as shown below:

Table A: List of Subject Agencies

AGENCIES	PARKS MAINT.	RECREATION	OPEN SPACE	LIBRARY	FACILITY RENTAL
<i>Special Districts</i>					
Cachuma RCD			✓		
Cuyama Valley Recreation and Park District	✓	✓			
Embarcadero Municipal Improvement District	✓	✓	✓		✓
Isla Vista Recreation and Park District	✓	✓	✓		✓
Los Alamos Community Services District	✓				✓
Isla Vista Community Services District			✓		✓
County Service Area 3 (Goleta Valley)	✓		✓	✓	
County Service Area 4 (North Lompoc)			✓		
County Service Area 5 (Orcutt)	✓		✓		
County Service Area 11 (Summerland & Carpinteria)			✓		

AGENCIES	PARKS MAINT.	RECREATION	OPEN SPACE	LIBRARY	FACILITY RENTAL
<i>Cities</i>					
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	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Key findings and recommendations are presented in the Executive Summary of the attached countywide report. The countywide report also includes Agency Profile Chapters which contain individual evaluations for each of the 18 local agencies - highlighting specific characteristics, ongoing operations, current fiscal health, existing governance structure, ability to provide services, and its importance within its jurisdictional area. The profiles assist with statutory determinations required for all service and sphere of influence reviews pursuant to the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Act. This staff report summarizes the service and sphere review’s findings.

Purpose & Key Findings

The goal of this analysis is to accomplish the Commission’s direction to complete a service and sphere review for the Agencies under the Multi-Year Work Program and fulfill the service and sphere determinations under the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Act. The following are the main conclusions of the report:

**Spheres of Influence and Agency Boundaries**

This Study covers approximately 2,737 acres containing lands that are serviced parks, recreation, open space, library, and facility rental services from 18 agencies. The Study areas also look at portions with overlapping services between agencies and new service needs for some agencies. The locations of the Study Areas are identified in a map within the agency’s profile. The recommended Sphere of Influence would maintain existing boundaries for eight (8) agencies. The locations of the Study Areas are identified in a map within the agency’s profile.

All six of the Independent Special Districts (Cachuma RCD, Cuyama Valley R&P, EMID, Isla Vista R&P, Los Alamos CSD, & Isla Vista CSD) have a Sphere of Influence that match their district

boundaries. Three of the County Service Areas (CSA 3, CSA 4, & CSA 11) also have Spheres of Influence that match their district boundaries. County Service Area 5 has an SOI that's 3,616-acres beyond the boundary it serves. Five Cities have Spheres of Influence that extend beyond their service boundaries: Carpinteria, Lompoc, Santa Barbara, Santa Maria and Solvang. The Cities of Buellton, Goleta, and Guadalupe have a coterminous Sphere with their service boundaries. A total of 1 Study Area was evaluated with no recommendation to add it.

No Sphere of Influence change, or designation of a Future Study Area, is necessary or recommended for Cachuma Resources Conservation District, Cuyama Valley Recreation and Park District, Isla Vista Recreation and Park District, Los Alamos Community Services District, County Service Area 3, County Service Area 4, County Service Area 5, and County Service Area 11. Their Spheres of Influence already well define their probable service areas. The recommended action for these districts is to simply affirm their existing Spheres of Influence.

Because the report does not address other services provided by the multi-service Districts or Cities, no formal recommendations for Sphere of Influence updates are provided at this time. Sphere updates will be done once all future service review of the services and boundaries of the agencies have been completed.

### **Parks & Recreation Cooperation**

The County's Community Services Department, Parks Division (County Parks Division) is currently leading the Recreation Master Plan process in close coordination with the cities and alternate service providers. The goal of the Recreation Master Plan is to foster interagency partnerships with a coordinated vision for recreation facilities and services in Santa Barbara County that meets changing needs now and in the future. The Recreation Master Plan will enhance the potential to combine the resources of service providers and increase efficiency of guided improvements to recreation services.

The Recreation Master Plan will allow for improved coordination and allocation of resources between the wide variety of recreational service providers in the County to help guide provision of improved parks, trails, open space, and recreation services to County residents and visitors. Improved regional coordination provided through a Recreation Master Plan will enhance the potential to combine the resources of service providers and increase efficiency of guided improvements to recreation services. Identification of shared countywide goals for recreation needs and details for key planned parks, trails, recreation improvements will position the County and cities to successfully pursue state and federal grants to fund improvements such as the recently enacted statewide Parks and Water Bond Act of 2018 (Proposition 68) and future potential State Park bonds or other possible local funding opportunities.

The cities and special districts, along with private recreational service providers (e.g., youth sports leagues, YMCAs), are central to providing recreational services, particularly for children and seniors, as well as adult fitness and active sports. Most recreation land (37 percent) is designated in the South Coast recreation planning area. Cuyama has the least area designated for recreation (0.2 percent), followed by Santa Maria Valley (5 percent), Santa Ynez Valley (13

percent), and Lompoc Valley (33 percent). In addition, 11 percent of recreation-designated land lies within the Los Padres National Forest, which includes campgrounds, as well as limited areas of Vandenberg Space Force Base.

### **Open Space, Trails, and Easements Cooperation**

In Santa Barbara County there are over 69,000-acres of conservation easements and private conservation lands, 630,000-acres within the Federal Los Padres National Forest, 95,000-acres in other Federal lands, 102,100-acres in Federal Vandenberg Space Force Base, and 15,000-acres of State Lands that make-up the landscape of Santa Barbara County. There are 11,367 acres of land currently designated for Public or Private Recreation and/or Open Space in the unincorporated areas and generally include land owned by the County, California State Parks, the federal government, and some privately owned land.

Open space and trail access is an important part of the quality-of-life Santa Barbaran's enjoy. The per capita trail access in the County highly favors those on the South Coast. The County hosts an incredible network of parks and trails that offer recreation and ecosystem service benefits to all who live and play here, but access to these benefits is a challenge for many of the County's citizens. Trail networks have also run into connectivity challenges with trails crossing private lands: public trails on or near ranch lands can pose disturbances. Trail maintenance costs has also been identified as a challenge. The South Coast offers many open space opportunities within a 5–15-minute drive, but moving north, access becomes more and more limited. In some places, trails exist but accessibility is limited by lack of clear signage and/or poor maintenance (such as the Los Padres access points off of Highway 166). In the last five years, trail access has improved in North County thanks to the efforts of Santa Maria Valley Open Space.

### **Library Cooperation**

In Santa Barbara County, the County contracts annually with five Cities (Santa Maria, Lompoc, Goleta, Carpinteria & Santa Barbara) and their municipal libraries to administer eight branch libraries. Three of the branches are in smaller Cities and receive City and County funding. The remaining five branches are in unincorporated areas and have no other public funding source. The eight branches operate using the Black Gold Cooperative Library System. The sharing of resources between libraries in both San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara is available through interlibrary loans, although San Luis Obispo County Library and Santa Barbara Public Library no longer participate in sharing resources through Black Gold Cooperative Library System.

The County of Santa Barbara funds every library in the County, including the five City Municipal Libraries (Santa Barbara Main/Eastside, Goleta Valley, Lompoc, Santa Maria, and Carpinteria) and eight County Branches. Approximately \$2.9M of the \$4.4M in funding goes towards the five City Municipal Libraries or ~66%. The remaining funding goes towards the eight County Branch Libraries (Montecito, Vandenburg Village, Cuyama, Guadalupe, Los Alamos, Orcutt, Buellton and Solvang) or ~34%. There are three County Branch Libraries located within Incorporated City Limits (Guadalupe, Buellton and Solvang); those Cities provide significant funding towards those libraries.

## **Facility Rentals Cooperation**

Each of the public agencies maintain various types of rental facilities spaces and in some cases share space with another agency. A listing of rental facilities owned or operated by each agency is outlined in Chapter 3 under the respective agency profile.

The largest number of regional shared rental facilities include Community and Senior Centers, Veteran Hall's, and swimming pools. There are also a number of these rental spaces that include recreational facilities, such as parks, playgrounds, and City Halls, Auditoriums, & indoor buildings/clubhouses. All of these rental spaces are open to the general public.

## **Finances**

All local agencies providing parks, recreation, open space, library, and facility rental services have different variations in the amount of revenue received by the agencies. Among the agencies providing these services in Fiscal Year 2022-23, the City of Santa Barbara received \$5,548 in revenue for each resident, while County Service Area No. 4 received \$5.88 for each of its residents. Cachuma Resource Conversation Districts receives the least for its soil and water conservation efforts at \$1.50 per resident. Overall, the agencies have received slightly greater revenue than in previous years, as a slow trend upwards.

The variation in services reviewed under this report also have a wide variation in primary revenue sources. Parks and recreation services are generally covered by property and sales taxes. Libraries are also primarily funded by property taxes along with charges for services. This same funding covers rental facilities. The use of sales tax revenue, special tax measures, and grant funding are used to make necessary improvements and maintain operations for all of these services.

The providers vary substantially in size of operations. Comparisons may be drawn by focusing on costs per capita served. While none of the agencies appear to be in fiscal distress and at risk of financial failure, the smaller agencies are often less able to plan for and address fiscal issues. For airport, transit, and fee-based parking services planning documents are adopted to keep pace with actual costs. These agencies prepare documented budgets and financial reports; current cost of service studies necessary to adjust rates to assure adequate funding for operations and ongoing capital requirements are implemented.

In addition to needing adequate revenues, a local agency relies on its fund balance to provide a cushion for unforeseen expenditures or revenue shortfalls. A fund balance helps to ensure that resources are available to meet the cost of operations. As shown in Table ES-3 (page 30), the agencies reviewed in this report have fund balances ranging from 2% of annual budget to 611% of annual budget.

## **Public Accountability and Transparency**

All agencies appear to guide activities based on established qualitative goals outlined under their respective strategic or general plans. It would be appropriate for the local agencies to also establish quantitative standards in informing their decision-making as it relates to these services. These supplements would help improve the public's understanding of how each local agency defines and measures success.

In seven of the eight Cities the Mayor is elected at-large while the Council Members are elected by Districts (Guadalupe is the only exception). Many of the District are either transitioning or already elect members by-district elections by 2024.

Of the 18 agencies providing parks, recreation, open space, library, and facility rental services all except for the Cuyama Valley Recreation and Park District maintain websites listing information about the Board of Directors or City Council Members and postings of upcoming meeting agendas. The District is undergoing construction of a website and currently has limited information available at this time. The County of Santa Barbara includes boundary maps for CSA's 3, 4, 5, 11, on the Public Works Surveyors website page. Agenda items related to any of these special districts are included in the Board of Supervisors weekly agendas. County Public Works and Community Services Department does maintain their own website and includes archived meeting minutes, board roster, and newsletters.

## Environmental Review

LAFCO staff has conducted an environmental review for the draft service and sphere review in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Staff has determined that the service and sphere review is exempt because the actions qualify as "information collection" under Section 15306 and any potentially significant environmental impacts pursuant to section 15061(b)(3), 15303 and 15319 of the State Guidelines would cover reaffirming the existing SOIs. The Clerk will file the Commission's Notice of Exemption following approval of the proposal and environmental determination. (Attachment B).

## Agency Review and Public Notice

A hearing notice for this draft service and sphere review was published in the November 12<sup>th</sup> issue of Santa Maria Times and November 15<sup>th</sup> issue of the Santa Barbara Independent (Attachment C). An administrative draft of the report was also shared with the Agencies. This allowed all 18 local agencies an opportunity to review and provide feedback before the report was finalized. Edits received were implemented in the report to ensure accuracy in staff's evaluation. Staff would like to thank each city manager, recreation and park, community service and special district districts general manager and their staff for their time and effort in helping fulfill this state mandate. Based on the analysis shown in the countywide report (refer to Attachment A), coupled with the fact that all 18 local agencies had an opportunity to review the report's findings, staff is recommending that the Commission adopt the attached resolution (refer to Attachment E) approving the countywide service and sphere review.

**Comment Letters/Changes.** The public and agencies has provided comments regarding the SOI Update and Municipal Service Review which are attached. The comment letters and more detailed responses are found in Attachment D of this staff report. Staff has analyzed all comments since the public release and has prepared the change table shown in Attachment D addressing the issues raised. Many comments or changes help correct or make the report more accurate. The recommendation is to accept the changes as outlined in Attachment D.

**Conclusion.** LAFCO has completed all the steps necessary to update the affected agencies Sphere of Influence consistent with the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Act.

Attachments

Attachment A – Countywide Service and Sphere Review for Parks, Recreation, Open Space, Library, and Facility Rental Services (online at [www.sblafco.org](http://www.sblafco.org)) Previously Distributed

Attachment B – Notice of Exemption Section 15306. Class 6; Sections 15303 Class 3, and 15319 Class 19, and 15061(b)(3)

Attachment C – Public Hearing Notice

Attachment D – Comment Letters & Change Table

Attachment E – Draft Resolution

Please contact the LAFCO office if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Mike Prater  
Executive Officer



# **ATTACHMENT A**

**Draft Countywide Service and Sphere Review for  
Parks & Recreation, Open Space, Library and  
Facility Rental Services (online at  
[www.sblafco.org](http://www.sblafco.org))**

# ***NOTICE OF EXEMPTION***

## **Filing of Notice of Exemption in Compliance with Section 21108 of the Public Resources Code**

**TO:** County Clerk  
County of Santa Barbara  
105 East Anapamu Street  
Santa Barbara CA 93101

**FROM:** Local Agency Formation Commission 105  
East Anapamu Street, Room 407 Santa  
Barbara CA 93101  
805/568-3391

**PROJECT TITLE:** SPHERE OF INFLUENCE UPDATE AND MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW FOR PARKS & RECREATION, OPEN SPACE, LIBRARY AND FACILITY RENTAL SERVICES IN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

### **PROJECT LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION:**

#### Project Location:

The jurisdictional boundaries of one Resource Conservation District, two Recreation and Parks Districts, one Municipal Improvement District, two Community Services Districts (CSD), four County Service Areas, along with all eight Cities are included, all located in Santa Barbara County.

#### Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

LAFCO has prepared a Sphere of Influence (SOI) Update and Municipal Service Review for the 18 agencies identified above. The SOI is a 20-year growth boundary that includes areas that may be served by a City or District in the future. This SOI update and Service Review recommends maintaining the same boundaries for the Cachuma Resources Conservation District, Cuyama Valley Recreation and Park District, Isla Vista Recreation and Park District, Los Alamos Community Services District, County Service Area 3, County Service Area 4, County Service Area 5, and County Service Area 11 Districts. The Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Act calls for the Service Review to be completed either prior to or concurrent with, the Sphere of Influence update. The Service Review evaluates the public services provided by the 18 agencies and provides the information base for updating the SOIs.

#### Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out the Project:

Santa Barbara Local Agency Formation Commission

**Reasons for Exemption.** The proposed Sphere of Influence Update and Municipal Services Review does not involve, authorize or permit the siting or construction of any facilities. The MSR is categorically exempt from the preparation of environmental documentation under a classification related to information gathering (Class 6 - Regulation Section 15306). CEQA Regulation Section 15061(b)(3) states "The activity is covered by the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA." Sections 15303 and 15319 of the State CEQA Guidelines are applicable.



Mike Prater, Executive Officer

November 7, 2024

Date

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A Sphere of Influence is a plan for probable, physical boundary and service areas of a local agency or jurisdiction. As such, it does not give property inside the Sphere boundary any more development rights than what already exist. The Sphere of Influence Boundary is a long-range planning tool that assists LAFCO in making decisions about a jurisdiction's future boundary. The Sphere indicates areas that might be served by an agency. It is unknown if an area will ever be annexed to the agency. Also, it is often uncertain what type of precise land use is going to be proposed for a specific area. In the case of eight district listed the Sphere of Influence will not change from their existing boundary.

The study of impacts associated with the Sphere of Influence is often speculative since it is unclear what type of project might be proposed or if an area will even be annexed in the future. The City and County studies impacts comprehensively when a project-specific environmental review is completed.

The Santa Barbara Local Agency Formation Commission will approve the above-referenced project on December 12, 2024 and has determined it to be exempt from further environmental review under the requirements of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) of 1970, as defined in the State and local Guidelines for the implementation of CEQA.

Exempt Status:

- Ministerial
- Statutory
- Categorical Exemption:  
Information gather pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15306. Class 6; Sections 15303 Class 3, and 15319 Class 19
- Emergency Project
- No Possibility of Significant Effect [Sec. 15061 (b,3)]

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
**Executive Officer**

Date: 12/12/24

# SANTA BARBARA LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

## NOTICE OF 30-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW AND INTENT TO ADOPT A SPHERE OF INFLUENCE AND MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW FOR LOCAL AGENCIES PROVIDING PARKS & RECREATION, OPEN SPACE, LIBRARY AND FACILITY RENTAL SERVICES

**Project Summary.** A Sphere of Influence (SOI) is defined by Government Code 56425 as "...a plan for the probable physical boundary and service area of a local agency or municipality..." The Sphere of Influence Update and Municipal Service Review for the Parks & Recreation, Open Space, Library and Facility Rental Service Agencies identify the areas where future annexations might be considered and evaluated. The Agencies included in this Sphere of Influence and Municipal Services Review Update are; the Cachuma Resource Conservation District, Cuyama Valley Recreation and Park District & Isla Vista Recreation and Park District, Embarcadero Municipal Improvement District (EMID), Los Alamos Community Service District & Isla Vista Community Service District, four County Service Areas No. 3, No. 4, No. 5, No. 11. In addition, the Cities of Buellton, Carpinteria, Goleta, Guadalupe, Lompoc, Santa Barbara, Santa Maria, and Solvang are included. The Municipal Service Reviews evaluate the jurisdiction's capabilities to serve existing and future residents and is the basis for Sphere of Influence decisions. The SOI for the Cachuma Resources Conservation District, Cuyama Valley Recreation and Park District, Isla Vista Recreation and Park District, Los Alamos Community Services District, County Service Area 3, County Service Area 4, County Service Area 5, and County Service Area 11 will not change from their existing SOI.

**Public Review Period.** Runs through November 7, 2024 to December 12, 2024. Comments are due by 5:00 pm on Wednesday December 11<sup>th</sup>. Sent to: Santa Barbara LAFCO, 105 East Anapamu Street, Santa Barbara CA 93101 or by email at [lafco@sblafco.org](mailto:lafco@sblafco.org), Attention Mike Prater. Any additional comments can be made at the hearing.

**Public Hearing.** A public hearing will be scheduled for Thursday, December 12, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. at the Board of Supervisors' Hearing Room at 511 East Lakeside Parkway, Suite 141, Santa Maria, CA. 93455.

**Environmental Determination.** It has been determined that this project is exempt from CEQA because it either will not have any potentially significant environmental impacts pursuant to section 15061(b)(3), 15303, and 15319 of the State Guidelines with no changes to existing SOIs are proposed.

**Disclosure of Campaign Contributions** – LAFCO Commissioners are disqualified and are not able to participate in proceedings involving an "entitlement for use" if, within the 12 months preceding the LAFCO decision, the Commissioner received more than \$250 in campaign contributions from the applicant, an agent of the applicant or a financially interested person who actively supports or opposes the LAFCO decision on this matter.

Persons participating in this proceeding who have made such contributions are required to disclose that fact for the official record of the proceedings. Disclosures must include the amount of the

contribution and the recipient Commissioner and may be made either in writing to the Executive Officer of the Commission prior to the hearing or by an oral declaration at the time of the hearing. The foregoing requirements are set forth in the Political Reform Act of 1974, specifically in Government Code section 84308.

Additional Information. – The following documents are available for review: Sphere of Influence Update and Municipal Service Review for Parks, Recreation, Open Space, Library, and Facility Rental Services. These documents can be downloaded from our website at [www.sblafco.org](http://www.sblafco.org) at no cost, or may be viewed at the LAFCO office. Additional information regarding items to be considered at the meeting may be obtained by contacting the LAFCO office at 105 East Anapamu Street, Santa Barbara CA 93101 or by calling 805-568-3391. The agenda and staff report for the hearing will be available at the LAFCO website at [www.sblafco.org](http://www.sblafco.org). 5 days before the hearing.

**Contact.** Mike Prater, Executive Officer, (805) 568-3391 or [lafco@sblafco.org](mailto:lafco@sblafco.org).

Dated this 12th day of November 2024.

Mike Prater, Executive Officer  
Santa Barbara LAFCO

# **ATTACHMENT D**

## **Public Comments**

4/12/2016 10:00 AM

**ATTACHMENT D**  
**PROPOSED CHANGES TO DOCUMENTS**  
 SPHERE OF INFLUENCE UPDATE  
 MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW

	<b>Commenter</b>	<b>Change or addition (Underlined) or comment Page/Line/</b>	<b>Comment</b>
1.	Jody Thomas, City of Carpinteria	Key Findings "Library Cooperation" paragraph one Page 11, County contracts annually with <del>five</del> <del>four</del> Cities... <del>eight</del> <del>nine</del> branch libraries. Last sentence to read "through interlibrary loans, <b>although San Luis Obispo County Library and Santa Barbara Public Library no longer participate in sharing resources through Black Gold Cooperative Library System.</b> "	Change Made.
2.	Staff	Revised "Air Force Base" Inserted " <b>Space</b> " Force Base pages 10 & 12	Change Made.
3.	Jody Thomas, City of Carpinteria	Revised "Library Cooperation" Page 12, Added Zone 5 narrative.	Change Made.
4.	Staff	Revised " <b>page numbering</b> " Inserted blank page 20 As result of edits from above	Change Made.
5.	Staff	Inserted "AGENCY SPECIFIC" Determination #3 PRESENT AND PLANNED CAPACITY OF PUBLIC FACILITIES... New Page 30, " <b>The City of Carpinteria maintains a total of (11) recreation parks, pocket parks, neighborhood parks, and open space/nature preserves. The City conducts a variety of special programs intended to help promote recreation in the community. The City of Carpinteria took over the management and operation of the library on July 1, 2022</b> "	Change Made.
6.	Jody Thomas, City of Carpinteria	Revised "CHAPTER THREE: L. City of Carpinteria" Page 255, Added " <b>Community</b> " in front of Library under Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department section.	Change Made.

hosts an incredible network of parks and trails that offer recreation and ecosystem service benefits to all who live and play here, but access to these benefits is a challenge for many of the County's citizens. Trail networks have also run into connectivity challenges with trails crossing private lands: public trails on or near ranch lands can pose disturbances. Trail maintenance costs has also been identified as a challenge. The South Coast offers many open space opportunities within a 5–15-minute drive, but moving north, access becomes more and more limited. In some places, trails exist but accessibility is limited by lack of clear signage and/or poor maintenance (such as the Los Padres access points off of Highway 166). In the last five years, trail access has improved in North County thanks to the efforts of Santa Maria Valley Open Space.

The County of Santa Barbara provides the most park and open space acreage of any local agency and the state and federal governments provide expansive lands for outdoor recreation. However, the eight cities in the county each provide more diverse parks and commonly provide robust recreation programs (e.g., sports leagues, fitness classes) to serve residents regionally. Two special districts also provide park facilities and/or recreation programming to meet local needs. County Parks manages 24 day-use parks, 2 camping parks, 45 open spaces, and 12 beach areas for a total of 8,595 acres, plus 90 miles of trails and approximately 4,000,000 square feet of road and parking lot pavement.

#### 4. Library Cooperation

In Santa Barbara County, the County contracts annually with five Cities (Santa Maria, Lompoc, Goleta, Carpinteria & Santa Barbara) and their municipal libraries to administer eight~~nine~~ branch libraries. Three~~Four~~ of the branches are in smaller Cities and receive City and County funding. The remaining five branches are in unincorporated areas and have no other public funding source. The nine~~eight~~ branches operate using the Black Gold Cooperative Library System. The sharing of resources between libraries in both San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara is available through interlibrary loans, although San Luis Obispo County Library and Santa Barbara Public Library no longer participate in sharing resources through Black Gold Cooperative Library System.

Library services in the County are provided via the Cities' main libraries and various branch locations as a way to efficiently use existing facilities and prevent the creation of County-operated duplicate establishments. The library service Cities are grouped into five zones as follows:

- **Zone I: Santa Barbara.** Services provided to the City of Santa Barbara and unincorporated areas located within or in close proximity to Santa Barbara, Montecito, Summerland, and Mission Canyon.



- **Zone 2: Lompoc.** Services provided to the City of Lompoc and unincorporated areas located within or in close proximity to Lompoc, Vandenberg Village, and Vandenberg Air Force Base.
- **Zone 3: Santa Maria.** Services provided to the cities and unincorporated areas located within or in close proximity to Cuyama, Guadalupe, Los Alamos, Orcutt, and Santa Maria.
- **Zone 4: Goleta.** Services provided to the cities and unincorporated areas located within or in close proximity to Goleta, Solvang, Buellton, Eastern Goleta Valley, Community Service Area 3, Hope Ranch, Isla Vista, Gaviota, Santa Ynez and Los Olivos.
- **Zone 5: Carpinteria.** Services provided to the City of Carpinteria and unincorporated areas located within or in close proximity to Carpinteria and Toro Canyon.

Zone 5 was established in 2022. Historically, the Carpinteria Library service area, as delineated by the Santa Barbara Public Library official survey data in the past several years, extended into Summerland. The Population of Summerland was split between Montecito Branch Library and the (then) Carpinteria Branch Library. Then in 2022, Zone 5 was established with a boundary extending to east Toro Canyon and Santa Barbara Public Library kept the entirety of Summerland in their service area. In addition, Zone 5 should have been extended to border Zone 3 as do all the other Santa Barbara County Library zones (see map below). The California Cooperative Library Systems, as established by the California State Library Board in 1964, state that libraries within a cooperative system should be contiguous. With the Zone borders as they are, Zone 5 remains isolated geographically, from the other Zones in Black Gold, now that Santa Barbara Public Library (Zone 1) has withdrawn from Black Gold. We request that Zone 5 borders be reassessed to 1) Have the northern border be contiguous with Zone 3, and 2) that historical service area populations be researched through the California State Library Public Library [SurviesServices](#) to determine the service are population established historically by Santa Barbara Public Library.

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The County's contribution to library services for each zone is based on the population of the cities and unincorporated areas within the respective zone as certified January 1st of the prior fiscal year. A Countywide Library Agreement serves as the governance structure.

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OPERATIONS

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The City employs approximately 43 full-time equivalent employees and 61 part-time equivalent employees. The City's organization is comprised of the Administrative Services Department; Community Development Department; General Government Department; Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department; and Public Works Department.

**Community Development Department**

The Community Development Department (CDD) has several distinct divisions including Planning (current and advanced planning), Building, and Code Compliance (parking enforcement, animal control, and zoning and building compliance).

**Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department**

The Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department (PRCS) has several divisions including Aquatics, Age Well Senior Services, Parks and Open Spaces and the [Community Library](#). The Carpinteria Community Library space is leased by the City from the County, operated, and maintained by the City since July 1, 2022. The Library is located at 5141 Carpinteria Avenue in Carpinteria, located in the Veterans Memorial Building.

**Public Works**

The City operates and maintains the City's public infrastructure and facilities including bridges, buildings, parks/grounds, parking lots, shorelines, storm drainage, streets/roadways, and urban forestry. The City provides contract solid waste hauling and street sweeping services. The City also provides contract law enforcement services through the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department and fire protection services through the Carpinteria-Summerland Fire Protection District. Finally, the City provides contract paratransit services through Easy Lift Transportation and Help of Carpinteria, respectively.

The Carpinteria community is provided utility services including water by the Carpinteria Valley Water District, wastewater collection and treatment by the Carpinteria Sanitary District, electrical service by Southern California Edison, telecommunication by Cox Communications and Frontier Communications, and natural gas by Southern California Gas Company. Transit services are provided by the Santa Barbara Metropolitan Transit District and Ventura County Transportation Commission, respectively. A greater discussion of these services and operation can be found under the respective Agency Profiles.

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OPPORTUNITIES & CHALLENGES

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The City of Carpinteria continues to face the ongoing challenges of budgetary restrictions, and recruitment and retention difficulties within its Parks, Recreation and Community Services

RESOLUTION OF THE SANTA BARBARA LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION  
COMMISSION MAKING DETERMINATIONS AND APPROVING THE 2024  
COUNTYWIDE MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW AND SPHERES OF INFLUENCE  
FOR PARKS, RECREATION, OPEN SPACE, LIBRARY, AND FACILITY RENTAL  
SERVICES AGENCIES

WHEREAS, pursuant to Government Code Section 56425, 56427, and 56430, and the Commission's duly adopted Policies for Spheres of Influence determinations, the Commission has initiated and conducted the 2024 Countywide Parks, Recreation, Open Space, Library, and Facility Rental Services and Sphere of Influence Review for 18 agencies: Cachuma Resource Conservation District, Cuyama Valley Recreation and Parks District, Isla Vista Recreation and Parks District, Embarcadero Municipal Improvement District (EMID), Los Alamos Community Services District, Isla Vista Community Services District, County Service Area 3, County Service Area 4, County Service Area 5, County Service Area 11, City of Buellton, City of Carpinteria, City of Goleta, City of Guadalupe, City of Lompoc, City of Santa Barbara, City of Santa Maria, and City of Solvang ("service providers").

WHEREAS, the Commission is required to review and update, as necessary, adopted spheres of influence not less than every five years, and

WHEREAS, the Commission is directed to conduct a review of municipal services not later than the time it considers an action to establish or update a sphere of influence, and

WHEREAS, the Executive Officer has given the notices required by law and forwarded copies of his report to officers, persons and service providers as prescribed by law; and

WHEREAS, the public hearing for this matter was conducted at 1:00 p.m. on December 12, 2024; and

WHEREAS, at said hearing, this Commission heard and received all oral and written protests, objections, and evidence which were made, presented or filed, and all persons present were given the opportunity to hear and be heard in respect to any matter relating to said Sphere of Influence Update and Municipal Service Review for the Parks, Recreation, Open Space, Library, and Facility Rental Services Agencies; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED DETERMINED AND ORDERED by the Commission as follows:

- (1) Finds this action is exempt from provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act, Public Resources Code section 21000 et seq. (CEQA) as "information

collection” under Section 15306 of the State CEQA Guidelines based on the determination that this action does not have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment (Section 15061(b)(3)), and based on the applicability of Sections 15303 and 15319 of the State CEQA Guidelines;

- (2) Has considered all factors required to be considered by Government Code Section 56425(e) and 56430 and hereby adopts such determinations as set forth in the Public Review Draft of the Sphere of Influence Update and Municipal Service Review with said determinations being incorporated by reference herein as though set forth in full;
- (3) Adopts the Service Review Determinations, as shown on Exhibit I;
- (4) Adopts the Sphere of Influence Determinations, as shown on Exhibit J;
- (5) Adopts the 2024 Municipal Service Reviews for all 18 Special Districts and Cities providing Parks, Recreation, Open Space, Library, and Facility Rental Services in Santa Barbara County; and
- (6) Reaffirms the currently adopted Spheres of Influence of the Cachuma Resources Conservation District, Cuyama Valley Recreation and Park District, Isla Vista Recreation and Park District, Los Alamos Community Services District, County Service Area 3, County Service Area 4, County Service Area 5, and County Service Area 11, as shown on Exhibits A, B, C, D, E, F, G, & H;

This resolution is hereby adopted this 12<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2024 in Santa Barbara, California.

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

Santa Barbara County Local Agency  
Formation Commission

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jay Freeman, Chair

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Natasha Carbajal, Clerk/Analyst  
Santa Barbara County  
Local Agency Formation Commission



**Legend**

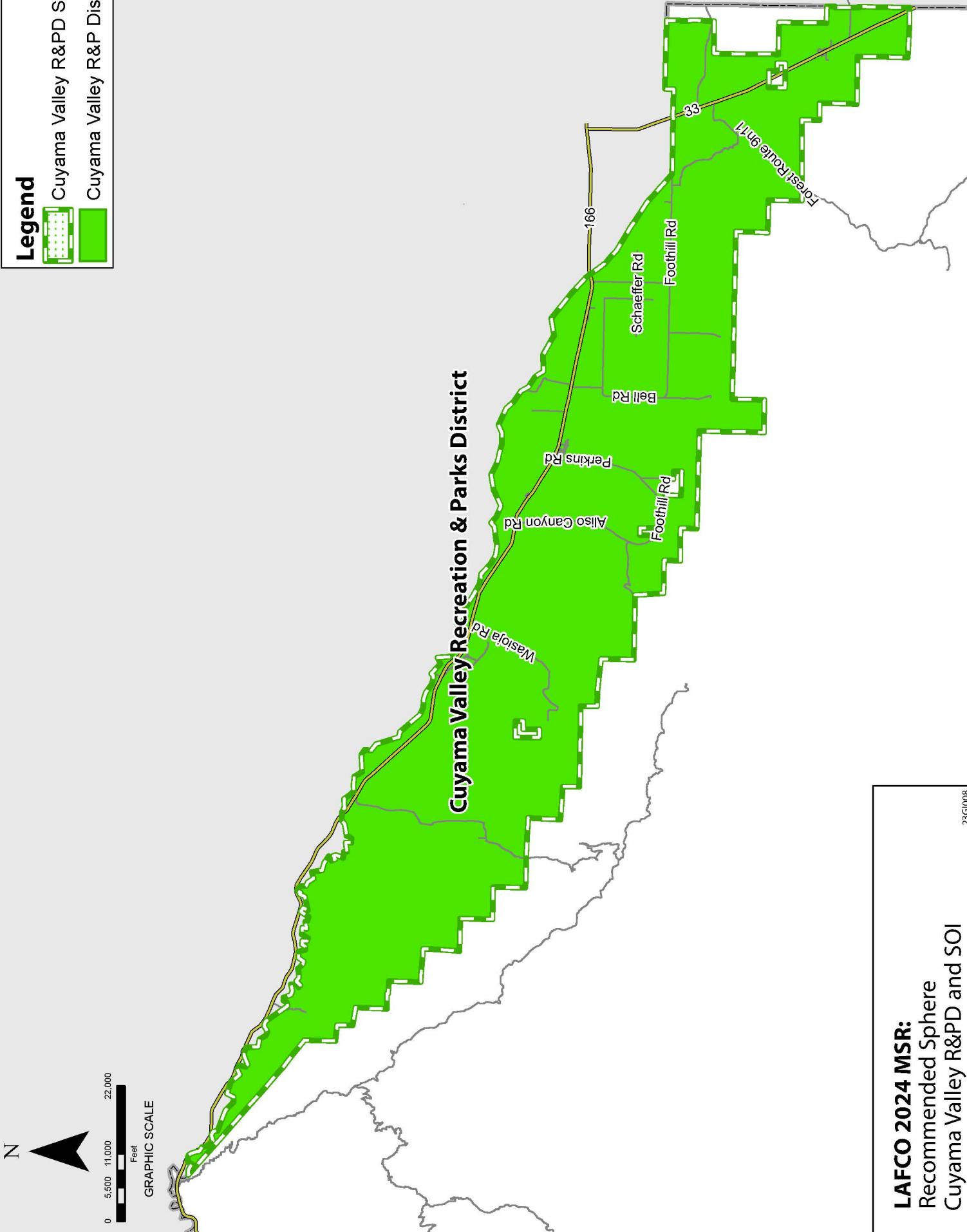
Cuyama Valley R&PD SOI

Cuyama Valley R&P District



GRAPHIC SCALE

**Cuyama Valley Recreation & Parks District**



**LAFCO 2024 MSR:**  
Recommended Sphere  
Cuyama Valley R&PD and SOI

23G1008



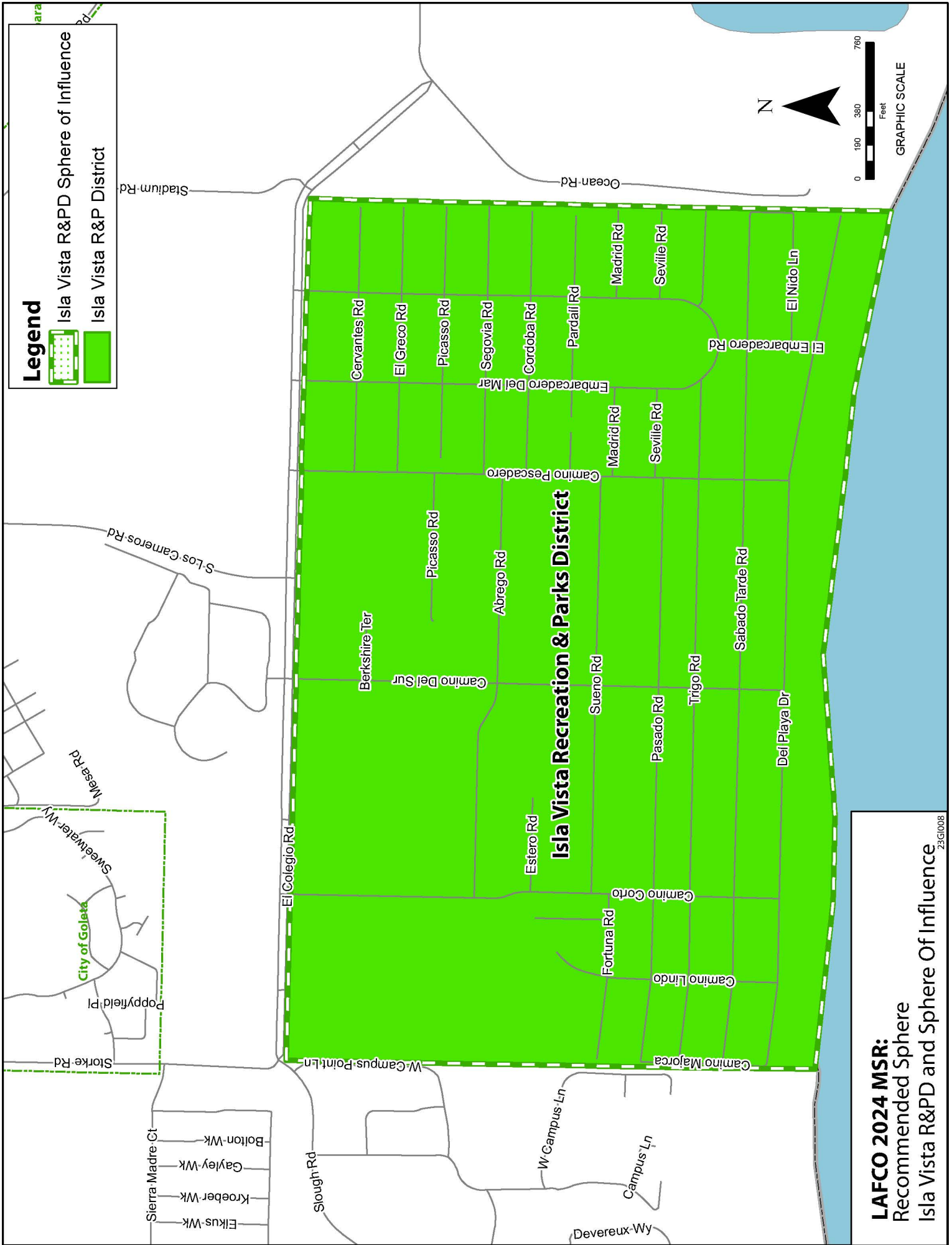
**Legend**



Isla Vista R&PD Sphere of Influence



Isla Vista R&P District



GRAPHIC SCALE

**Isla Vista Recreation & Parks District**

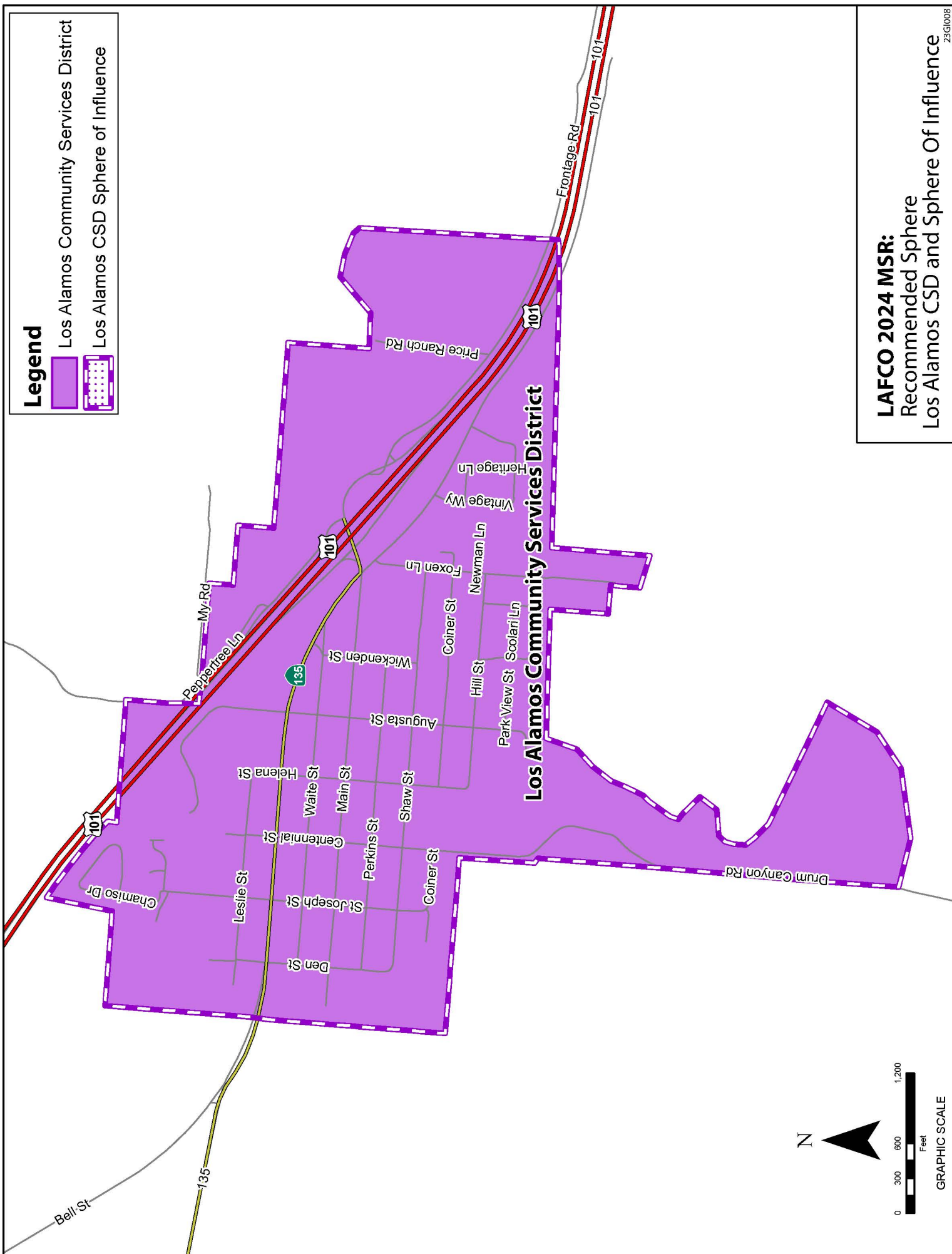
**LAFCO 2024 MSR:**  
Recommended Sphere  
Isla Vista R&PD and Sphere Of Influence

23G1008



**Legend**

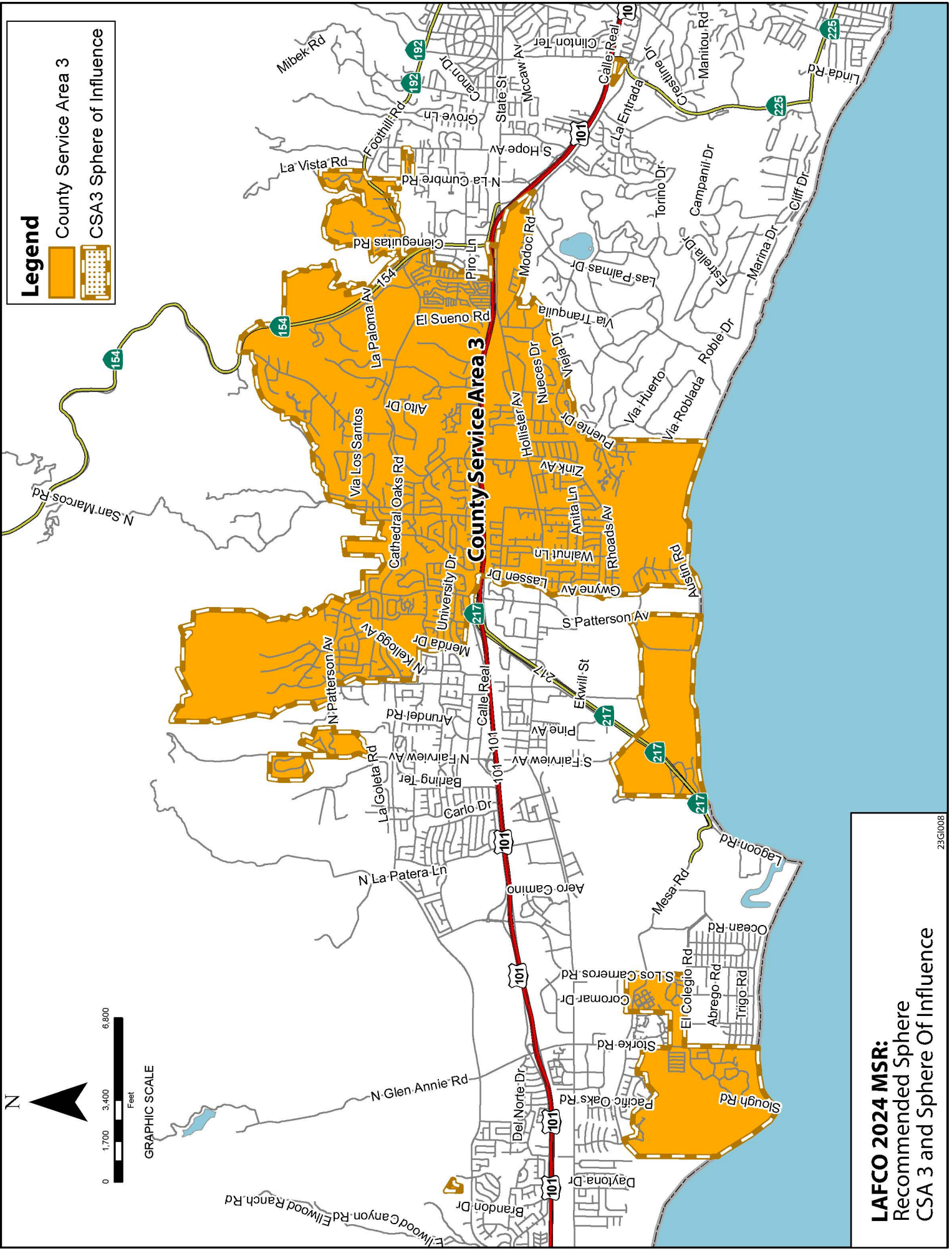
-  Los Alamos Community Services District
-  Los Alamos CSD Sphere of Influence



**LAFCO 2024 MSR:**

Recommended Sphere

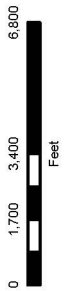
Los Alamos CSD and Sphere Of Influence



**Legend**

County Service Area 3

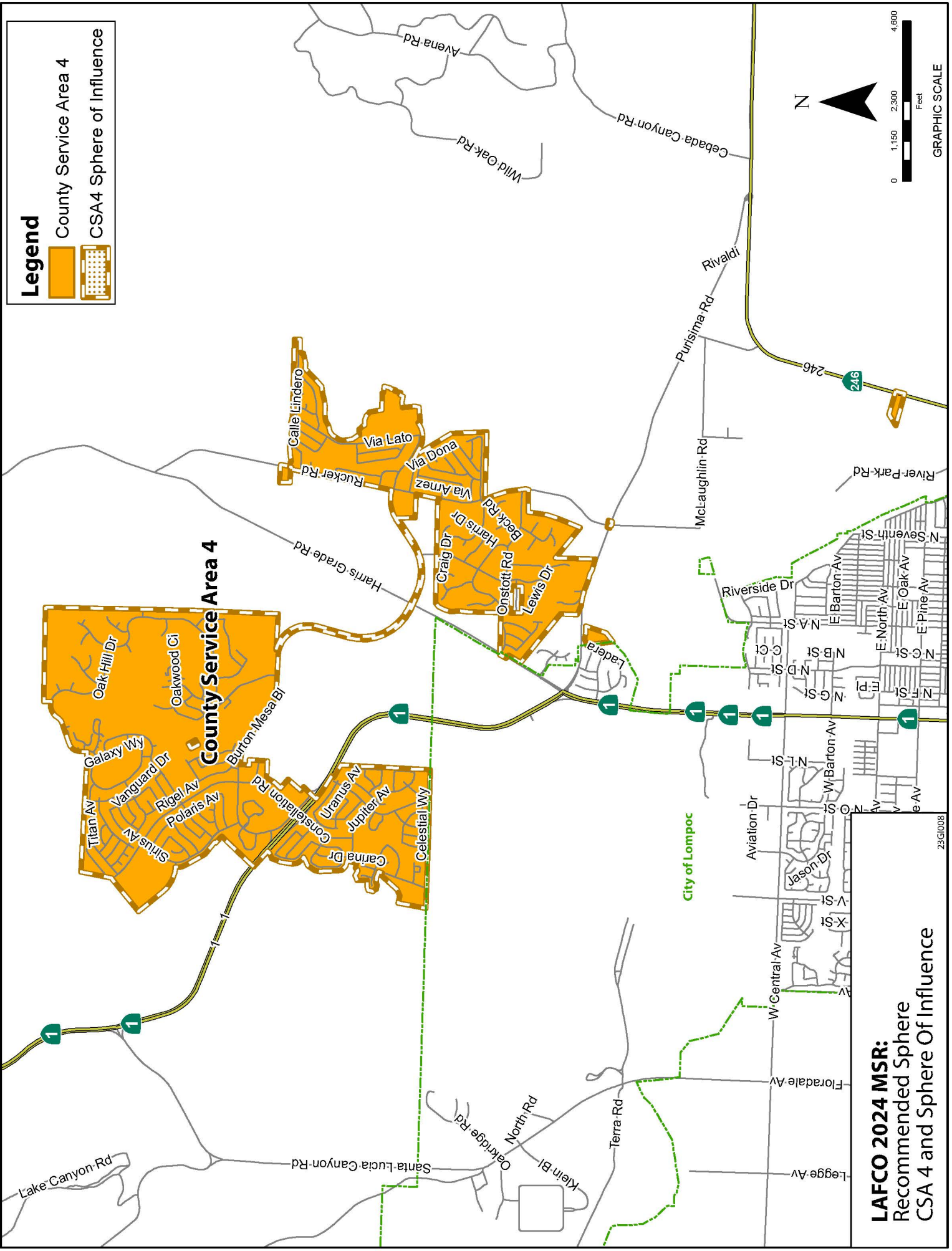
CSA3 Sphere of Influence



**LAFCO 2024 MSR:**  
Recommended Sphere  
CSA 3 and Sphere Of Influence

23G008





**County Service Area 4**

**Legend**

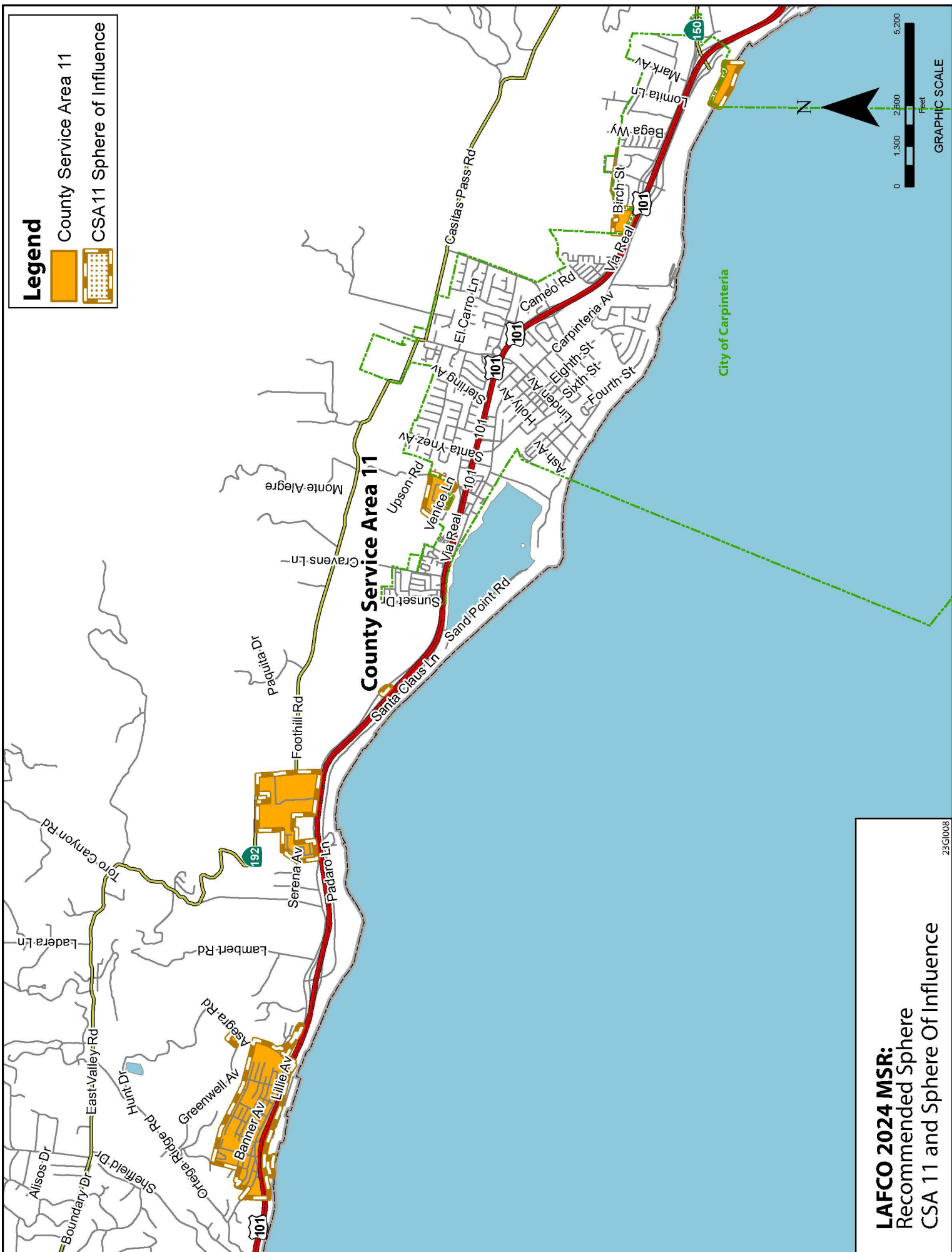
- County Service Area 4
- CSA4 Sphere of Influence

**LAFCO 2024 MSR:**  
 Recommended Sphere  
 CSA 4 and Sphere Of Influence

23G1008







**Legend**

County Service Area 11

CSA 11 Sphere of Influence

**LAFCO 2024 MSR:**  
Recommended Sphere  
CSA 11 and Sphere Of Influence

23G008

## CHAPTER ONE: MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW DETERMINATIONS

### A. Scope

This Chapter contains the recommended Municipal Services determinations for parks, recreation, open space, library, and facility rental services provided by 18 Special Districts and Cities in Santa Barbara County. These agencies are one Resource Conservation District (Cachuma RCD), two Recreation and Parks Districts (Cuyama Valley & Isla Vista), one Municipal Improvement District (EMID), two Community Services Districts (CSD) (Los Alamos & Isla Vista), four County Service Areas (County Service Area 3, County Service Area 4, County Service Area 5, County Service Area 11), along with all eight Cities (Buellton, Carpinteria, Goleta, Guadalupe, Lompoc, Santa Barbara, Santa Maria, and Solvang). A complete review of all services provided by the multi-service Districts and Cities will be done in the future additional MSR's.

### B. Summary of Recommendations

Based on the recommended determinations in this chapter, the Executive Officer recommends that the Commission adopt the Municipal Service Review for all 18 agencies providing parks, recreation, open space, library, and facility rental services in Santa Barbara County.

### Potentially Significant MSR Determinations

The MSR determinations checked below are potentially significant, as indicated by “yes” or “X” answers to the key policy questions listed and corresponding discussion on the following pages. If most or all of the determinations are not significant, as indicated by “no” or “blank” answers, the Commission may find that a comprehensive MSR update may not be warranted.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Growth and Population                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Shared Services           |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accountability |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Capacity, Adequacy & Infrastructure to Provide Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Other                     |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Financial Ability                            | <input type="checkbox"/> None at this time         |

### C. Overview

The Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Act requires LAFCO to conduct a service review of the municipal services provided in the County or other appropriate areas prior to updating the Sphere of Influence of a local agency. This chapter contains a recommended written statement of LAFCO's determinations with respect to seven areas as required by Government Code section 56430(a).

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Each recommended determination applies to all 18 agencies as a regional group along with agency specific determinations for each of the following seven areas:

1. Growth and Population Projections for the Affected Area;
2. The Location and Characteristics of any Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities within or Contiguous to the Sphere of Influence;
3. Present and Planned Capacity of Public Facilities and Adequacy of Public Services, and Infrastructure Needs or Deficiencies;
4. Financial Ability of Agency to Provide Services;
5. Status of, and Opportunities for, Shared Facilities;
6. Accountability for Community Service Needs, including Government Structure and Operational Efficiencies, and
7. Any Other Matter Related to Effective or Efficient Service Delivery, as Required by Commission Policy.

Individual profiles of each of the 18 agencies are provided in Chapter Three.

Additional parks recreation, and open space maintenance services are also provided by the County Community Services Department, non-profits, or other organizational groups within the county. LAFCO has no authority over the County, State and Federal entities or the private/nonprofit organization entities. A brief review of these services is included in the Appendix.

## D. Determinations

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### I. GROWTH AND POPULATION PROJECTIONS FOR THE AFFECTED AREA

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#### REGIONAL

The preparation of this study was produced using the 2020 Census, Department of Finance, SBCAG Regional Forecast as the most recent available data. The 18 local agencies currently serve an estimated Countywide resident population of 443,623+. This population estimate represents close to a four percent overall increase or 0.37% annually over the last 10 years.

Santa Barbara County is predominately city-centered with slightly more than 68.5% of the current resident population residing in one of the eight incorporated Cities. Nearly 57 percent of all City residents reside in North County.

County of Santa Barbara Housing Element (2023-2031) identifies an estimated growth rate of 4.0 percent along South Coast and 9.5 percent countywide. The population in these County areas will continue to grow, causing an increasing demand for parks and recreational facilities. (The relationship between projected growth and service area boundaries is discussed individually in each of the MSR sections.)

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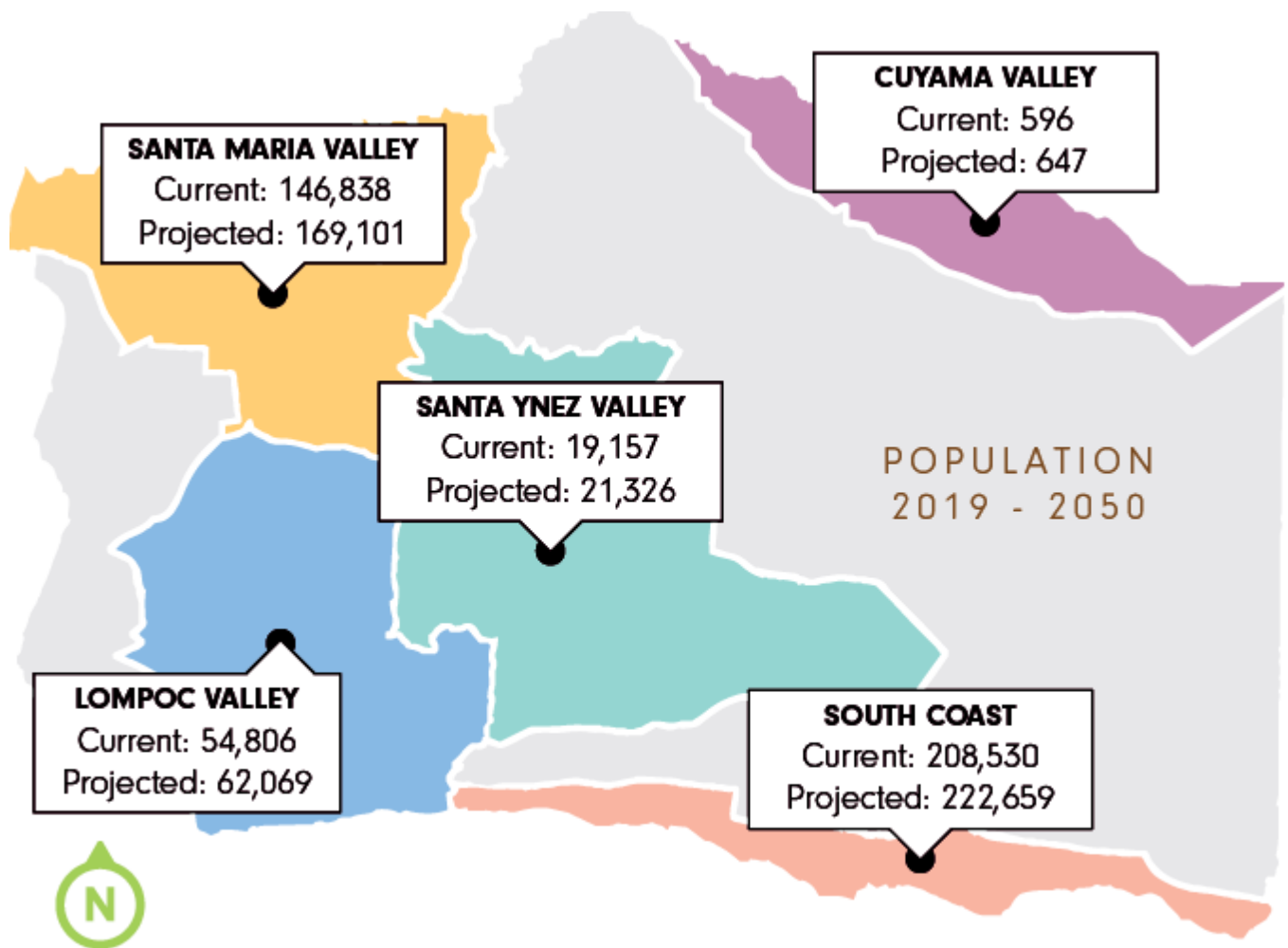
Populations in less-developed areas of the County may not be receiving adequate recreational services and opportunities because of their distance from recreational facilities.

The County's Draft Recreation Master Plan provides an overview of demographic factors such as existing population, projected growth rate, age, and household income levels as indicators for where and how recreation facilities and programs should be provided. The Master Plan addresses sociodemographic factors that indicate unique recreation needs countywide and within individual communities. Santa Barbara County residents have diverse characteristics and differing recreation needs. The amount and type of recreation facilities and programs needed in each community is determined in part by population growth and other demographic factors that can change over time.

Most of the County's 2.4 million acres (3,789 square miles) supports very low population densities outside of the urban communities, including areas such as Channel Islands National Park and offshore waters, Los Padres National Forest, Vandenberg Space Force Base, and extensive areas of rural agricultural land and wilderness. As of 2019, 96 percent of residents live in cities and established communities and approximately 4 percent of residents live in rural areas outside of established communities.

The largest unincorporated communities are Orcutt, Eastern Goleta Valley, and Isla Vista, supporting 88,309 residents or 20 percent of the County's population. Santa Barbara County's population is projected to increase through 2050 by 13.2 percent, a total increase of approximately 45,875 residents. Most of this growth (48.5 percent) is projected to occur in the Santa Maria Valley with an increase of 22,263 residents. The Lompoc Valley is projected to grow by 13.3 percent or 7,263 residents, the second highest growth rate in the County. While the South Coast is projected to experience the lowest growth rate, population is projected to increase by 14,129 residents, the second highest total in the County. While all communities within the County are projected to grow, the City of Guadalupe is projected to have the highest population increase of 27.9 percent between 2021 and 2050, followed by the City of Buellton with a 19.9 percent total increase.





#### AGENCY SPECIFIC

The Department of Finance population estimates Report E-4 for 2024 estimates the population for the City of Carpinteria to be 12,744. Between 2010 and 2022, the population of Carpinteria decreased by 81 people.

City of Santa Barbara population is estimated to be 86,591 people. Between 2010 and 2020, the population of Santa Barbara City increased by 5,101 people (5.4 percent or less than 1 percent per year).

The population of Goleta area includes City of Goleta, Isla Vista CSD, Isla Vista Recreation and Park District, and County Service Area 3. These population figures are estimated at 32,515, 15,000, 15,500, and 31,700 people, respectively. Between 2010 and 2020, the population of Goleta increased by 2,802 people.

Population growth rates in South Coast are projected to be the lowest in the County between 2021 and 2050, with growth rates decreasing from 2.3 percent to 0.4 percent through 2050. Growth through 2050 would be greatest in the City of Goleta with a total increase in population

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of 7.2 percent. The City of Carpinteria would grow by 5.7 percent, the lowest total growth in the County. The unincorporated communities would conservatively grow by up to 6 percent, but that growth is not expected to occur uniformly. Collectively, the South Coast is expected to grow by 6.8 percent between 2021 and 2050 to reach approximately 222,659 residents.

City of Guadalupe has experienced a sizeable percentage increase in estimated resident growth at 17.1 percent; or 1.7 percent per year. Between 2010 and 2022, the population of Guadalupe increased by 1,464 people. The population figures are estimated at 8,676.

The City of Santa Maria, has a recent history of projected growth at 7.3 percent; or less than 1 percent per year. Between 2010 and 2020, the population of Santa Maria increase by 7.3% from 99,553 to 110,608.

Collectively, the communities in the Santa Maria Valley are expected to grow by 15.2 percent between 2021 and 2050 to reach approximately 169,101 residents in existing communities. Population growth rates in Santa Maria Valley are expected to generally decrease between 2021 and 2050. While the rate of growth will likely taper off through 2050, no reduction in population is anticipated and near-term growth is projected to be substantial between 2021 and 2030 in the City of Santa Maria and the City of Guadalupe.

Cuyama Valley Recreation and Park District has a population of approximately 680 people. Between 2010 and 2020, the population of Cuyama unincorporated area did not change. As a rural unincorporated area, population growth rates in Cuyama Valley are expected to be relatively low between 2021 and 2050, with growth rates decreasing from 2.6 percent to 0.5 percent through 2050. This indicates that growth will be slow in both Cuyama and New Cuyama. Collectively, the Cuyama Valley is expected to grow by 8.6 percent between 2021 and 2050.

City of Lompoc has experienced a modest percentage increase in estimated resident growth at 3.8 percent; or less than 1 percent per year. Between 2010 and 2020, the population of Lompoc increased by 1,694 people. Lompoc's population is estimated to be 43,610. Population growth rates in Lompoc Valley are expected to be moderate between 2021 and 2050, with growth rates decreasing from 4.9 percent to 0.5 percent through 2050. This indicates that growth will be stronger through 2030 then taper off through 2050. Growth through 2050 would be greatest in the City of Lompoc with a total increase in population of 14.8 percent.

City of Buellton population between 2010 and 2020, has increased by 448 people rising by 8.5% from 4,828 to 4,970. However, the City of Buellton is projected to grow by 19.9 percent to reach 6,525 residents by 2050.

City of Solvang has experienced a sizeable percentage increase in estimated resident growth at 7.3 percent; or less than 1 percent per year. Between 2010 and 2020, the population of Solvang increased by 414 people. Solvang's population is estimated to be 5,663. Growth in Solvang is projected to be relatively low with a total increase of 9.3 percent to reach 6,298 residents by 2050.

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Los Alamos Community Services District has a population of approximately 1,634 people. Approximately 19,157 people reside in the developed communities of the Santa Ynez Valley. Santa Ynez Valley encompasses the City of Buellton, the City of Solvang, and the four small unincorporated towns of Santa Ynez, Ballard, Los Olivos, and Los Alamos. Population growth rates in Santa Ynez Valley are expected to be generally low between 2021 and 2050, with growth rates decreasing from 4.2 percent to 0.5 percent through 2050 in different communities. Notably, the City of Buellton is anticipated to grow steadily by between 3.8 percent and 4.2 percent through 2040 before growth begins to slow. Other communities would see low growth over the same period. Collectively, the Santa Ynez Valley is expected to grow by 11.3 percent between 2021 and 2050 to reach approximately 21,326 residents.

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## 2. THE LOCATION AND CHARACTERISTICS OF ANY DISADVANTAGED UNINCORPORATED COMMUNITIES (DUC) WITHIN OR CONTIGUOUS TO THE SPHERE OF INFLUENCE.

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### REGIONAL

In 2024, the California statewide median household income (MHI) was \$119,100, and 80% of that was \$89,040. LAFCO staff utilized the State DAC Mapping Tool and CalEnviroScreen 4.0 to verify disadvantaged status with other applications of the definition<sup>6</sup> to locate potential DUCs in the County. The County also prepared an update to its Integrated Regional Water Management Plan in 2019. Based on the criteria set forth by SB 244, staff's analysis indicates that the communities of Casmalia, Cuyama, New Cuyama, Sisquoc, Guadalupe, Garey, Devon, Tanglewood, Lompoc, portions of Goleta, Santa Maria, Santa Barbara, and Isla Vista were identified as qualifying disadvantaged communities.

The boundaries of the Cachuma Resource Conservation District service area and Sphere of Influence cover the entire County, including any disadvantaged unincorporated communities identified above.

### AGENCY SPECIFIC

No identified disadvantaged unincorporated communities have been identified within or contiguous to the Spheres of Influence of EMID, County Service Area 3, 4, or 11, City of Solvang, City of Buellton, and City of Carpinteria, providing parks and recreation related services in Santa Barbara County.

The median household income (MHI) for Goleta was \$113,889 in 2024, which does not qualify the community as a disadvantaged community. However, Portions of the City of Goleta's Sphere of Influence does qualify under the definition of disadvantaged community for the present and probable need for public facilities and services, as part of the larger Census tract including properties in the City of Goleta and County. It was designated as a disadvantaged community by

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CalEPA and identified in the research using DAC Mapping, CalEnviroScreen, EJScreen, and EnviroAtlas tools. The City of Goleta is an incorporated City, therefore by definition would not qualify as a disadvantaged unincorporated community.

The MHI for Guadalupe was \$66,026 in 2024, which qualifies the community as a disadvantaged community. The City of Guadalupe is an incorporated City, therefore by definition would not qualify as a disadvantaged unincorporated community. The City of Guadalupe Spheres of Influence is coterminous with the City limits.

The MHI for Lompoc was \$66,947 in 2024, which qualifies the community as a disadvantaged community. The City of Lompoc is an incorporated City, therefore by definition would not qualify as a disadvantaged unincorporated community. The City of Lompoc's Sphere of Influence is greater than its City limits.

The MHI for Santa Maria was \$81,447 in 2024, which does qualify the community as a disadvantaged community. In most cases, the City of Santa Maria's Sphere of Influence does qualify under the definition of disadvantaged community for the present and probable need for public facilities and services within the service areas with some areas contiguous to the Sphere of Influence surrounding the central and western side of the City also qualify as a disadvantaged community along with portions of City Census Blocks below the MHI or households below the quality-of-life threshold for income. The City of Santa Maria is an incorporated City, therefore by definition would not qualify as a disadvantaged unincorporated community. The City of Santa Maria's Sphere of Influence is greater than its City limits. Some areas west of the airport and southern City of Santa Maria contiguous to the Sphere of Influence such as Tanglewood qualify as a disadvantaged unincorporated community.

The MHI for Orcutt was \$108,225 in 2024, which does not qualify the community as a disadvantaged community as it relates to County Service Area No. 5. However, a small area was identified in the DAC Mapping and EJ Screen includes State Hwy 1 (Orcutt Expressway) and Union Valley Parkway and Del Cielo Mobile Estates that are contiguous to CSA 5's Sphere of Influence does qualify as a disadvantaged community.

The MHI for Santa Barbara City was \$104,001 in 2024, which does not qualify the community as a disadvantaged community. However, in some cases City of Santa Barbara has a small portion within the East Beach area. The City of Santa Barbara is an incorporated City, therefore by definition would not qualify as a disadvantaged unincorporated community. The City of Santa Barbara's Sphere of Influence is greater than its City limits.

The MHI for Isla Vista was between \$23,121 and \$24,121 in 2024, which qualifies the community as a disadvantaged community. This qualifies for both Isla Vista CSD and Isla Vista Recreation and Park District, respectively for smaller portions within the community. However, the area is being served by the various Districts for water, wastewater, park and recreation, and fire services.

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The MHI for Cuyama which includes Cuyama Valley Recreation & Park District's boundaries was \$55,104 in 2024, which does qualify the community as a disadvantaged community. The District's Spheres of Influence is coterminous and Cuyama Valley Recreation & Park District boundary is within an unincorporated community.

The MHI for Los Alamos was \$46,930 in 2024, which does qualify the community as a disadvantaged community. The District's Spheres of Influence is coterminous and Los Alamos is an unincorporated community.

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<sup>6</sup> Government Code section 56033.5.

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### 3. PRESENT AND PLANNED CAPACITY OF PUBLIC FACILITIES AND ADEQUACY OF PUBLIC SERVICES, AND INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS OR DEFICIENCIES

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#### REGIONAL

Outside of the one Countywide RCD studied in this review, eighty-nine percent of the residents of Santa Barbara County are currently within the boundaries of a City or Special District providing parks, recreation, open space, library, and facility rental services. A few agencies adopt Master Plans to evaluate service capacities and future needs. The County is undergoing a Recreation Master Plan with a target date of early 2025.

It is recommended all agencies adopt Master Park & Recreation Plans that address future population projections; identify needs for parkland acreage, facilities, and staffing; evaluate revenues and expenses; provide a cost avoidance analysis; and determine whether projected revenues are adequate to fund planned improvements.

Cumulatively, there are adequate parkland and recreational resources in the County to meet the existing need of 4,436 acres and projected future need of 5,133 acres of developed parkland. This includes factoring the additional unincorporated portions of the County and park system under County operations and maintenance. Under these public agencies there are 16,129-acres of parkland and open space. Of this amount 5,692-acres are in unincorporated areas.

The 2023 NRPA *Agency Performance Review* outlines key metrics that enable park and recreation professionals to compare agencies and identify best practices. Key findings from the report show that the typical park and recreation agency has:

- 2,287 residents per park
  - one playground for every 3,759 residents
  - 8.9 full-time employees per 10,000 residents
  - operating expenditures per capita of \$94.77
  - revenue to operating expenditures of 24.6 percent
-

- 
- 10.8 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents
  - 46 percent of full-time staff dedicated to operations/maintenance

As documented in each Chapter Profile, some agencies meet these metrics while other fall short. The Los Alamos Community Plan adopts 4.7 acres of recreation/open space per 1,000 people as the minimum standard ratio, per the Land Use Element. The Orcutt Community Plan (largely covers CSA 5) and Summerland Community Plan (covers CSA 11) both adopted 4.7 acres of recreation/open space per 1,000 people as the minimum standard ratio, per the Land Use Element. Recreation needs are met by both County parks and private/pseudo-private parks provided through development projects. The City of Buellton's standard for park provision is five acres of park area per 1,000 residents. The City of Goleta Open Space Element does not adopt a specific parkland to population ratio but acknowledges the City provides about 17 acres per 1,000 residents.

### AGENCY SPECIFIC

The Cities of Buellton and Solvang have an MOU for shared recreation services/events. As documented in respective City's Profile a total of 90-acres of parkland serves approximately 10,333 residents. Library services are managed by the City of Goleta in these Cities and all services are determined to be adequate.

The City of Goleta maintains approximately 550 acres of city parks and open space that serves a population of 32,515. The City of Goleta manages the Goleta Valley Library Branch that includes County Library Zone 4. Library Zone 4 serves as a regional main library for Goleta, Hope Ranch, Isla Vista, County Community Services Area 3, and Gaviota. the City also manages the libraries in the Santa Ynez Valley which include the Buellton Library, Solvang Library, Los Olivos Library, and Santa Ynez Library. Both park and library services are determined to be adequate.

The City of Guadalupe's maintains approximately 21 acres of city parkland with 8,676 residents. The City of Guadalupe's library is part of Zone 3 which is managed by the City of Santa Maria on a contract basis. The City is slightly underserved on a per capita basis at 2.56 ratio.

The City of Lompoc maintains approximately 298 acres of city parkland and 71.86 acres of trails serving 43,610 residents. The City develops and maintains classes, camps, workshops, and events designed to serve adults, youth and families of all ages and abilities. The City of Lompoc libraries located in Lompoc and Vandenberg Village, as well as the Charlotte's Web Mobile Children's library (also known as the bookmobile).

The City of Carpinteria maintains a total of (11) recreation parks, pocket parks, neighborhood parks, and open space/nature preserves. The City conducts a variety of special programs intended to help promote recreation in the community. The City of Carpinteria took over the management and operation of the library on July 1, 2022.

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The City of Santa Barbara maintains approximately 1,765-acres of city parkland encompassing 60 developed and open space parks, beaches, recreation and sports facilities, and a municipal golf course as well as the City's urban forest, parkways and medians program. A wide variety of classes, camps, and programs that help participants young and old to develop a healthy passion for arts, dance, fitness, and more. The Santa Barbara Public Library is within Zone 1 and provides library services to residents within the City of Santa Barbara and unincorporated areas (Montecito, Summerland, and Mission Canyon). Library on the Go outreach van provides library services and programs to neighborhoods in Santa Barbara, Montecito, and Summerland.

The City of Santa Maria maintains approximately 2,000-acres of city parks in 31 neighborhood and community parks, part of the 1,774-acre Los Flores Ranch Park property, the Abel Maldonado Community Youth Center, the Hagerman Softball Complex, Paul Nelson Aquatics Center, Elwin Mussell Senior Center, Veterans' Memorial Center and other community centers. The City of Santa Maria Recreation Department offers various programs, courses, and camps for youth and adults of all ages. The Santa Maria Public Library system provides library services to approximately 170,000 people in northern Santa Barbara County at the Main Library, and separate branches located in Cuyama, Guadalupe, Los Alamos, and Orcutt.

Isla Vista Recreation and Park maintains 25 parks and roughly 58 acres of open space serving over 27,000 visitors. The District holds many recreational and event activities throughout the year.

Los Alamos CSD operates and maintains the Ferrini Park (0.5-acres) serving approximately 1,634 people. Ferrini Park is a day use park only. The community occasionally holds music in the park events during the summer months.

EMID operates and maintains (18-acres) including Community Center, Riding Arena, Children's Playground, and Tecolote Meadows Park. The Riding Arena provides a space for equestrian activities. The Children's Playground provides swings, slides and imagination areas for ages 2-12.

Cuyama Valley Recreation and Park maintains 13.6-acres serving approximately 680 people. Richardson Park offers BBQ Grills, Benches or Picnic Tables, Group Picnic Areas, Hiking Trails, Playground, and Restrooms. Recreational Programs include soccer, basketball, volleyball, cheerleading, dance, and theatre.

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#### 4. FINANCIAL ABILITY OF AGENCY TO PROVIDE SERVICES

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##### REGIONAL

The demands on parks, recreation, open space, library, and facility rental services from agencies vary due to the size and geography of the agency's boundaries, the area's employment base, the presence of jobs/housing balance, the existence of parks and recreational programs, and other factors. These factors help dictate the amount of money required to provide an adequate level of service. The collection and distribution of Quimby Act fees on new subdivision lots within each

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City and unincorporated portions of the County is a primary funding source for maintaining parks and recreational activities. (Those fees are used by the Cities and County, for existing park and recreation programs, for specific community recreation facilities, and to school districts within the County boundaries for enhanced recreational opportunities.)

Nearly all funding for parks, recreation, open space, library, and facility rental services provided by the local agencies are generated from general sales, property, sales tax revenues (as part of General Funds), charges for services, Grants, and Ballot passed Measures that provide revenues for park, recreation, and library projects in Santa Barbara County.

Each service providers have varying levels of service and funding. Coordination between agencies can be challenging. Many recreational service providers struggle with the same obstacles of limited funding for recreation planning, maintenance, and development of parks and facilities, as well as improvements to recreation facilities and services. Typically, agencies' lack the ability to pursue state and federal grants, or requiring dependence on limited local funding sources particularly the smaller unincorporated areas.

Pension and other post-employment benefit costs have increased over the last five years. Many of the agencies currently finances benefits on a pay-as-you-go basis. The City of Carpinteria, City of Goleta, City of Lompoc, and City of Santa Barbara are the exceptions who have established a Benefit Trust and/or OPEB Trust for the purpose of reimburse or to pay pension benefits.

The following agencies do not offer Pension and other post-employment benefit (OPEB) to employees; Cuyama Valley Recreation and Park District, Embarcadero Municipal Improvement District, and Isla Vista Community Services District.

While an agencies budget may expand due to increased service demands, the size of a budget is closely related to the availability of funds. The financial ability to provide park, recreation, library, and facility rental services from some agencies has not kept pace in recent years. As outlined in Chapter Three, agencies providing these services within Santa Barbara County experience a wide range of revenue. Local Special Districts agencies receive between \$895 and \$4.42 per resident (the median being \$180). While the City agencies receive between \$5,548 and \$1,851 per resident (the median being \$3,003). The amount of revenue received by a Special District agency are often determined by factors over which agency residents have no control: assessed valuation, the date of a formation and past taxation levels, land development and property sales within the agency's boundaries, with a few exceptions for some district that set specific rates for services. For a City, the competition is for scarce resources among local government programs that divide up General Fund revenues. Local residents do have the ability to propose and approve tax measures to increase local services. Although passage of sales tax measures is increasingly more difficult.

State law<sup>7</sup> requires that an agency file an audit with the State Controller and County Auditor within 12 months of the end of the fiscal year or years under examination. All of the agencies providing parks, recreation, open space, library, and facility rental services, except for three, have

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provided LAFCO with the most recent audit as required by State law. The Cuyama Valley Recreation and Park were not able to provide audits since 2018. The City of Guadalupe, Isla Vista CSD and EMID are in the process of completing their 2023 audit. However, these three agencies did provide financial estimates.

#### AGENCY SPECIFIC

When a district annexes an area, the Property Tax Transfer Agreement with the County typically matches the annexing district's 1% County property tax within the annexation area. On the other hand, when an area is detached from a district, through a City annexation, the district no longer receives any taxes from this property. The Master Tax Transfer Agreement from 1981 provides for no transfer where territory is annexed to a County Service Area, Sanitation or Sanitary District, Mosquito Abatement District, or the Santa Barbara Metropolitan Transit District.

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<sup>7</sup>Government Code section 26909(a)(2).

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## 5. STATUS OF, AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR, SHARED FACILITIES

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#### REGIONAL

In most cases among the local agencies, due to relative distance between the jurisdictions and other communities, along with the type of services related to parks and recreational needs the opportunities for shared facilities are limited. A key metric for shared services would be to have parks and recreation opportunities within a 10-minute radius of where residents live. So, while many do not currently share facilities with other agencies or the agencies do not have any opportunities to do so, residents that have the opportunity to travel short distances for recreational and open space activities is available. Some jurisdictions have shared service arrangements, which are outlined below and described in greater detail for each agency in Chapter Three, such as library services, some beach and trail access and maintenance.

#### AGENCY SPECIFIC

The libraries within the County of Santa Barbara are separated into (5) zones based on the management of the libraries. Currently, all zone, with the exception of Zone 1 (Santa Barbara) are members of Black Gold Cooperative Library System. As members the cooperative allows for all branches to be able to share library resources and materials.

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## 6. ACCOUNTABILITY FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE NEEDS, INCLUDING GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE AND OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCIES

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### REGIONAL

Santa Barbara County is served by a web of agencies providing parks, recreation, open space, library, and facility rental services. This Municipal Service Review primarily looks at the 18 Agencies – one Resource Conservation District, two Recreation and Parks Districts, one Municipal Improvement District, two Community Services Districts (CSD), four County Service Areas, along with all eight Cities that provide services.

LAFCO staff sees value in local City agencies collaborating and exploring opportunities to improve delivery of municipal services. It is still unknown whether it is feasible for the County or another local service provider to assume responsibilities within a given area. Therefore, LAFCO staff recommends that the Cities and Special District continue to discuss partnerships with the County and other neighboring agencies. If an agreement is made, in which all affected parties agree in the service responsibilities, a change of organization or formation of a new agency may be considered at that point.

### AGENCY SPECIFIC

All 18 local agencies are managed by committed and responsive public servants dedicated to providing timely public services irrespective of personal welfare within their respective jurisdictions.

All agencies appear to guide activities based on established qualitative goals outlined under their respective strategic or general plans. It would be appropriate for the local agencies to also establish quantitative standards in informing their decision-making as it relates to these services. These supplements would help improve the public's understanding of how each local agency defines and measures success.

Each of the agencies fully cooperated with the MSR process and responded to all requests for information with the exception of Cuyama Valley Recreation & Park District. Notably, Cuyama Valley Recreation and Park District were unable to provide budget, audits, or specific data needs for their service area. The data presented reflects the most accurate information available.

In seven of the eight Cities the Mayor is elected at-large while the Council Members are elected by Districts (Guadalupe is the only exception). Many of the District are either transitioning or already elect members by-district elections by 2024.

Cachuma Resource Conversation District is composed of nine members who are appointed to four- year terms by the County Board of Supervisors.

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Cuyama Valley Recreation & Park District is composed of a five-member Board of Directors that are elected at-large to staggered four-year terms.

The County Service Areas (3, 4,5, & 11) are dependent Special Districts governed directly by the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors. The five County supervisors are elected from geographic districts for four-year terms.

Isla Vista Community Service District has a seven-member Board of Directors with four members elected at-large to staggered four-year terms, and one member elected at-large to serve a two-year term. UCSB and County both appoint the remaining two members. The Board of Supervisors appointment is for a two-year term and the Chancellor of University of California, Santa Barbara for a term of four years.

The Embarcadero Municipal Improvement District has a five-member Board of Directors that are elected at-large to staggered four-year terms.

Of the 18 Special Districts and Cities providing parks, open space, library, & beautification, facility rental services, all of them with the exception of the dependent districts and the Cuyama Valley Recreation & Park District whose website is currently under construction, maintain websites listing information about the Board of Directors/Council Members and postings of upcoming meeting agendas. The websites also provide access to minutes and packets to staff reports. These same websites also contain a wide range of useful organizational information, including agency budgets, audits, and plans. The specific websites for each agency, or related organization, are listed in Chapter Three.

CSA 3, 4, 5 & 11 are managed by the County and operates under the Public Works's Department which maintains a separate website and provides some useful links to important public information.

Consistent with the public notice requirements of California's Brown Act, public agendas must be posted by all public agencies at a public location a minimum of 72 hours prior to the meeting. State law also requires that agendas be posted on the agency website, if one exists. All agencies must also allow the opportunity for members of the public to directly address the legislative body on any item of interest to the public at every regular meeting. As of January 2020, Senate Bill 929 requires all independent special districts to maintain a website, unless the district passes a resolution claiming hardship for particular reasons each year. All Special Districts in this Study currently maintain a website.

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## 7. ANY OTHER MATTER RELATED TO EFFECTIVE OR EFFICIENT SERVICE DELIVERY, AS REQUIRED BY COMMISSION POLICY

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### REGIONAL

The Local Agency Formation Commission of Santa Barbara County has adopted Sphere of Influence Policies and Criteria within its Policies and Procedures relating to Spheres of Influence and Changes of Organization and Reorganization. These policies and criteria were adopted, in conformance to State law, to meet local needs.

These policies stipulate that the designation of Spheres of Influence shall seek to preserve community identity and boundaries and will urge the political and functional consolidation of local government agencies that cross-cut those affected communities. Adopted General Plans of the Cities and the County will be supported when defining Sphere boundaries. Duplication of authority to perform similar service functions in the same territory will be avoided. An economically sound base for financing services without including territories which will not benefit from the services will be promoted. Agricultural resources and support facilities should be given special consideration in sphere of influence designations. Sphere of influence lines may be larger or smaller than existing local agency boundaries and may lead to recommendations for changes of organization.

The proposed affirmations and amendments to the Spheres of Influence of these agencies are consistent with local policies and criteria.

No additional review factors were determined under this service review.

### AGENCY SPECIFIC

None at this time.

## CHAPTER TWO: SPHERE OF INFLUENCE DETERMINATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### A. Scope

This chapter provides recommended Sphere of Influence determinations for one Resource Conservation District, two Recreation and Parks Districts, one Community Services Districts (CSD), and four County Service Areas. The other ten agencies provide multiple types of services still being evaluated. This chapter does not include recommended determinations for the Embarcadero Municipal Improvement District, Isla Vista Community Service District, or the eight Cities (Buellton, Carpinteria, Goleta, Guadalupe, Lompoc, Santa Barbara, Santa Maria, and Solvang). The current report addresses the parks, recreation, open space, library, and facility rental services provided by these eight Cities and two multi-service districts. It discusses, but does not update, the Spheres of Influence of these agencies. Sphere updates will be provided together with future reviews of all of the services provided by the Cities and multi-service districts.

### B. Summary of Recommendations

Based on the recommended determinations in this chapter, the Executive Officer recommends that the Commission:

1. Adopting the 2024 Municipal Service Review for all 18 Special Districts and Cities providing Parks, Recreation, Open Space, Library, and Facility Rental Services in Santa Barbara County;
2. Affirming the currently adopted Spheres of Influence of the Cachuma Resources Conservation District, Cuyama Valley Recreation and Park District, Isla Vista Recreation and Park District, Los Alamos Community Services District, County Service Area 3, County Service Area 4, County Service Area 5, and County Service Area 11, as shown on the map on pages 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, & 48.

### C. Overview

The Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Act states that in determining the Sphere of Influence of each local agency, LAFCO shall consider and prepare a written statement of its determinations with respect to five areas<sup>8</sup>:

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<sup>8</sup>These determinations are contained in Government Code section 56425(e).

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; and
5. The present and probable need for those public facilities and services of any disadvantaged unincorporated communities within the existing Sphere of Influence.

This chapter contains recommended Sphere of Influence determinations for eight Special Districts. The other ten agencies provide multiple types of services still being evaluated. This chapter does not include recommended determinations for the Embarcadero Municipal Improvement District, Isla Vista Community Service District, or the eight Cities (Buellton, Carpinteria, Goleta, Guadalupe, Lompoc, Santa Barbara, Santa Maria, and Solvang). Each of the five recommended determinations applies to all 18 agencies as a group.

The Executive Officer has found the Spheres of Influence of the Cachuma Resource Conservation District, Cuyama Valley Recreation and Parks District, Isla Vista Recreation and Parks District, Los Alamos Community Services District, County Service Areas No.3, County Service Areas No.4, County Service Areas No.5, and County Service Areas No.11. are recommended to maintain their existing Sphere of Influence boundary as appropriate to meet the needs of district residents. This chapter, therefore, includes the Executive Officer's recommendation to affirm the currently adopted Spheres of Influence, without change.

## D. Determinations

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### I. THE PRESENT AND PLANNED LAND USES IN THE AREA, INCLUDING AGRICULTURAL AND OPEN-SPACE LANDS

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The present and planned land uses of the County are guided by the General Plans, Circulation, Safety Elements of the County and the eight Cities within the County. As a moderately sized County in the State of California, Santa Barbara County covers more than 2,737 square miles and is comprised of diverse natural habitats and residential communities. The eight incorporated Cities comprise slightly more than 68.5% of the County population and about 2% of the total land area. The Housing Elements for each of the jurisdictions are in compliance with State Housing and Community Development certification.

Many of the Cities are located within or surrounded by some of the richest agricultural regions in the world. These are located in the Santa Maria Valley, Santa Ynez Valley, Lompoc Valley, and Carpinteria Valley. These Cities include Guadalupe, Santa Maria, Buellton, Solvang, Lompoc, and Carpinteria. Three Cities are located in the South Coast Region: Goleta, Santa Barbara, and Carpinteria. In addition to the strong agricultural economies of the Santa Maria, Santa Ynez and Lompoc Valleys, the South Coast Region is a center of tourism along the Central Coast.

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The County as a whole is likely to see a steady rate of growth over the next 20 years. The Cities of Buellton, Carpinteria, Goleta, and Guadalupe, along with the Cachuma Resource Conservation District, two Recreation & Park Districts (Cuyama and Isla Vista, the Embarcadero Municipal Improvement District, and three Community Service Districts (Cuyama, Isla Vista, Los Alamos) have a Sphere of Influence that match their district boundaries having no Sphere of Influence beyond service boundaries. The four County Service Areas (3,4,5 & 11) all have a Sphere of Influence that match their district boundaries. These communities have limited areas for future development and will be dependent on in-fill projects.

Trends for recreational planning include high rates of diabetes and obesity, Santa Maria Valley needs attractive, widespread, and easily accessible options to use recreation and active transportation as daily exercise. The City of Santa Maria is projected to grow by 16.2 percent, significantly increasing demand for parks and recreation facilities. Over 30 percent of the City of Santa Maria's and Guadalupe's residents are children under 18 who require access to playgrounds, ballfields, and diverse active recreation opportunities. Nearly 30 percent of Orcutt's residents are seniors over 55 years old who may require recreation amenities and senior-focused programming that support active lifestyles and community engagement.

With 23.8 percent of residents under 18 years old, local facilities and programs serving school-aged youth and teenagers are needed, particularly considering the distance between Cuyama Valley and other urban areas. With 32.9 percent of residents over 55 years old, the Cuyama Valley may require added senior programs and passive recreational opportunities located in within Cuyama or New Cuyama for ease of access.

With 24.3 percent of residents under 18 years old, Lompoc Valley has continuous need for active recreation such as playgrounds, ballfields, and active recreation programming. With 39 percent of Vandenberg Village residents and 31 percent of Mission Hills residents are over age 55, these communities may require added senior programs and passive recreational opportunities located locally for ease of access. With high rates of diabetes and obesity, Lompoc Valley needs attractive, widespread, and easily accessible options to use recreation and active transportation as daily exercise.

The communities in Santa Ynez Valley are generally autonomous and separated from one another, which indicates that recreation needs must be met locally to serve the unique needs of each community. With nearly half residents in Ballard, Santa Ynez, and Los Olivos are over age 55, these communities may seek more passive recreational opportunities such as hiking trails, passive parks, or open space and senior recreational programs. With over 20 percent under 18 years old in Los Alamos and the City of Buellton, these communities will require expanded access to active recreation such as playgrounds, ballfields, and active recreation programming.

The South Coast may have a relatively low proportion of children under the age of 18 (16.9 percent), but in terms of total population, the South Coast has the most children in the County



(35,242 residents), indicating an ongoing need for active recreation such as playgrounds, ballfields, and active recreation programming, particularly in the cities. While most residents in the City of Goleta are seniors (28.7 percent), there are strong proportions of children and young adults, indicating an ongoing need for a balanced and diverse recreation program that meets a wide range of needs. While most residents in the City of Goleta are seniors (28.7 percent), there are strong proportions of children and young adults, indicating an ongoing need for a balanced and diverse recreation program that meets a wide range of needs. With 17.6 percent of residents under 18 years old, the City of Santa Barbara will continue to need active parks and youth-focused recreation programs. While most residents in the City of Carpinteria are seniors (32.7 percent), there are strong proportions of children and young adults, indicating an ongoing need for a balanced and diverse recreation program that meets a wide range of needs. Nearly all Isla Vista residents are college aged, indicating a need for facilities and programs that meet the needs of young adults.

For the eight Cities; growth rates are estimated to be as follows:

- The City of Buellton anticipates growing at a 6.9 percent within the City over the next 8 years. Close to 97% of the parcel acreage is under private ownership with 80% already developed. The undeveloped area consists of 13 vacant parcels that collectively total 37.45 acres.
- The City of Carpinteria's projected growth rate is about 0.7%. Close to 74% of the parcel acreage is under private ownership with 81% having already been developed. The undeveloped area consists of 39 vacant parcels that collectively total 25 acres with some areas not developable.
- The City of Goleta's projected growth managed based on the maintenance of service levels and quality of life within the City. Most of the City or 98% of the parcel acreage is under private ownership with 91% having already been developed. The undeveloped area consists of 83 vacant parcels that collectively total 103 acres.
- The City of Guadalupe's projected growth rate is about 1.2%. Close to 98% of the parcel acreage is under private ownership with 93% having already been developed. The undeveloped area consists of 50 vacant parcels that collectively total 93 acres.
- The City of Lompoc's projected growth rate is about 0.45%. Close to 98% of the parcel acreage is under private ownership with 88% already been developed. The undeveloped area consists of 105 vacant parcels that collectively total 319 acres.
- The City of Santa Barbara's projected growth rate is about 0.3%. Close to 76% of the parcel acreage is under private ownership with nearly all or 94% having already been developed. The undeveloped area consists of 507 vacant parcels that collectively total 586 acres.
- The City of Santa Maria's projected growth rate is anticipated to decrease over time, with a projected annual growth rate of 0.9% from 2025 to 2040. Close to 89% of the parcel acreage is under private ownership with approximately 90% having already been developed. The undeveloped area consists of 249 vacant parcels that collectively total 179 acres.
- The City of Solvang's projected growth rate is about 3%. Close to 88% of the parcel acreage is under private ownership with 87% having already been developed. The undeveloped area consists of 54 vacant parcels that collectively total 73 acres.
- The County's growth rate, covering the same period, estimates 9.5 percent growth in the



surrounding unincorporated areas.

For the two Community Services District (Los Alamos and Isla Vista), the Cuyama Valley Recreation and Park District, growth rate will follow the respective unincorporated County at less than one percent.

A small portion of land use zoning within the proposed Study Area of Orcutt is considered prime agriculture. The SOI should be further examined during MOA talks for Study Area One. Staff recommendation is to maintain the existing Sphere of Influence in this area and note the City/County efforts to evaluate land use changes, needs, development standards, and special provisions during the MOA process. This effort will also include drafting policy documents, as well as, specific annexation studies for identifying new expansion areas. A high-level analysis will be conducted to identify potential water, sewer, stormwater, and utility system improvements needed for future uses in potential annexation areas.

In general, Santa Barbara County's parks, open space, library & facility rental service agencies have adequate Spheres of Influence and boundaries. Sixty-eight percent of residents living within Santa Barbara County are within the boundaries of a local agency providing such related services.

This designation is consistent with local LAFCO policy which states that "The Commission will consider area-wide needs for governmental services and evaluate individual districts serving the area as they relate to the total system of the existing local government in the community and alternative arrangements<sup>9</sup>."

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<sup>9</sup> *Policies and Procedures Relating to Spheres of Influence and Changes of Organization and Reorganization*, Section 7 Policy II.

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## 2. THE PRESENT AND PROBABLE NEED FOR PUBLIC FACILITIES AND SERVICES IN THE AREA

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Within 8 cities, 19 unincorporated communities, and hundreds of acres of rural ranches and agricultural lands, Santa Barbara County residents have diverse characteristics and differing recreation needs. The amount and type of recreation facilities and programs needed in each community is determined in part by population growth and other demographic factors that can change over time.

All local parks, open space, library and facility rental service agencies plan to meet current and future needs through annual budgets and maintenance schedules. Some agencies have adopted detailed strategic plans that pinpoint future actions required to meet community needs. The need for adequate future funding, staffing, equipment and facilities is great where significant residential or commercial growth is anticipated. Much of the urban growth anticipated in Santa Barbara County in the coming decades will occur within City boundaries. It is estimated the growth rate of 4.0 percent will occur along South Coast and 9.5 percent countywide.

As outlined in Chapters One and Three, the local agencies anticipating the most population growth are City of Santa Maria and the unincorporated portions of Santa Barbara County in the Orcutt area. If the County's Housing Element is certified by the State significant growth potential would exist around the City of Goleta. These Chapters outline the MSR Determination for the present and probable need for services in each area. Even without growth, present needs are significant throughout the County. The probable need for public services will be greater when development occurs. It's likely that urban levels of development will be proposed in the Sphere of Influence. The future preparation of Specific/Development Plans as areas are proposed for development and by conformance to LAFCO policies requiring a comprehensive Plan for Providing Services at the time of each future annexation proposal will address the needs.

With limited growth potential for some of the service areas, existing park, open space, library, and rental facility related services in the area appear adequate.

The Executive Officer recommends that LAFCO affirm the current adopted Spheres of Influence of the Cachuma Resources Conservation District, Cuyama Valley Recreation and Park District, Isla Vista Recreation and Park District, Los Alamos Community Services District, County Service Area 3, County Service Area 4, County Service Area 5, and County Service Area II

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### **3. THE PRESENT CAPACITY OF PUBLIC FACILITIES AND ADEQUACY OF PUBLIC SERVICES THAT THE AGENCY PROVIDES OR IS AUTHORIZED TO PROVIDE**

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The present and probable need for public facilities and services varies for each local public agency providing parks, recreation, open space, library, and facility rental services. As outlined in Chapters One and Three, the level of service provided by each agency varies according to the service area's needs and available revenues. The existence of special revenue measures, sales tax increases, and portion of property taxes allows generally each agency to meet the overall regional needs.

Most agencies are currently able to provide adequate parks, recreation, open space, library, and facility rental services to their respected area. The NPR per capita ratio is listed on page 18 shows the range of ratio between 0.31 and 20.6. Many communities have established a standard of 4.7- acres per 1,000 per population. The communities of Guadalupe, Orcutt, and Los Alamos represent a deficit in parkland needs.

As outlined in Chapter Three, each of the agencies are documented for revenues, equipment, and facilities. These agencies maintain fund balances that are available to meet unexpected demands, with the City of Guadalupe, Cuyama Valley Recreation and Park District on the leaner range to maintain parks, recreation, open space, and libraries. The Cachuma Resource Conservation District operates on a lean budget for soil and conservation services they provide. The Cities and Districts have the financial and organizational resources needed to provide services to those areas. Since no changes to the Sphere of Influence are proposed for the other agencies, the current need for services will not change significantly.

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The Executive Officer proposes no changes to the Sphere of Influence for the eight agencies therefore the current need for services will not change significantly.

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#### **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**

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For purposes of this review, a relevant “community of interest” is any group or entity in an unincorporated or incorporated area that shares common social or economic interests with an area served by an agency and that could be potentially annexed to that agency or added to that agencies Sphere of Influence.

The Sphere areas would rely on the nearest agency for customers and employees if commercial development occurs. Where residential development is proposed, the agency provides places for shopping and services for the people living in those areas. Areas to recreate, schools, places of worship and cultural events would also be available to the areas in the Sphere of Influence that include development. The agency may also gain sales and property taxes advantages when these areas are annexed. The area residents also have an economic interest in the services provided as some agencies are funded through a portion of the one-percent property tax.

The Sphere areas would rely on the nearest agency for customers and employees if commercial development occurs. Where residential development is proposed, the agency provides places for shopping and services for the people living in those areas. Areas to recreate, schools, places of worship and cultural events would also be available to the areas in the Sphere of Influence that include development. The agency may also gain sales and property taxes advantages when these areas are annexed. The area residents also have an economic interest in the services provided as the agencies are funded through a portion of the one-percent property tax.

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#### **5. THE PRESENT AND PROBABLE NEED FOR THOSE PUBLIC FACILITIES AND SERVICES OF ANY DISADVANTAGED UNINCORPORATED COMMUNITIES WITHIN THE EXISTING SPHERE OF INFLUENCE**

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Based on the criteria set forth by SB 244, staff’s analysis indicates that the communities of Casmalia, Cuyama, New Cuyama, Sisquoc, Guadalupe, Garey, Devon, Tanglewood, Lompoc, portions of Goleta, Santa Maria, Santa Barbara, and Isla Vista were identified as qualifying as disadvantaged communities. As outlined in Chapters One and Three, the local agencies that qualify for disadvantaged are discussed in greater detail.

There are no DUCs within or contiguous to the agencies where SOI expansion is recommended.

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