

L A F C O M E M O R A N D U M

SANTA BARBARA LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION
105 East Anapamu Street ♦ Santa Barbara CA 93101 ♦ (805) 568-3391 ♦ Fax (805) 568-2249

March 1, 2018 (Agenda)

TO: Each Member of the Commission

FROM: Paul Hood *PLH*
Executive Officer

SUBJECT: **Report on the Pending Application to Form the San Antonio Basin Water District**

This is an Informational Report. No Action is Necessary

Landowners in the San Antonio Basin Water District are preparing to submit a Petition to form a California Water District. The draft petition is included with this staff report as **Exhibit A**. Also included are two maps of the proposed district and the ground water basins in the area (**Exhibits B and C**).

Staff is working with the proponents and the County Surveyor's Office to complete the map and legal description prior to circulation of the petition and submittal of the LAFCO application packet. The formation process for California Water Districts, is initiated by a petition signed by the holders of title to a majority of land that is capable of using water beneficially for irrigation, domestic, industrial, or municipal purposes, and that can be serviced from common sources of supply and be the same system of works.

The purpose of the proposed district would be to provide a public agency with the powers and abilities to, among other things, (i) administer, develop, construct and operate projects and programs to enhance water supplies to help stabilize the groundwater conditions in the Basin, and (ii) advance groundwater management and conservation programs and thereby pursue stabilizing the Basin and sustaining its resources for the beneficial use of all who use water within the proposed District. The need for local groundwater management was highlighted with adoption of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 (Water Code § 10720 et seq., "SGMA"), which requires for the San Antonio Basin that certain groundwater management actions be taken within the next approximately five years. This District will provide a governmental structure for local control and management within the proposed District to take appropriate actions to comply with SGMA in coordination with the Los Alamos CSD and Vandenberg Air Force Base and with the advice of the Santa Barbara County Water Agency.

Please contact the LAFCO office if you have any questions.

Exhibits:

- Exhibit A Draft Petition of Formation
- Exhibit B Map of Proposed Boundaries
- Exhibit C Map of Proposed Boundaries and Groundwater Basins in the Area

1/2/18 EAC draft

TO:

Local Agency Formation Commission
County of Santa Barbara
105 East Anapamu Street, Rm 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

To be filled in by LAFCO

File No: _____
Date Presented: _____
Officially Filed: _____
Designated as: _____

LAFCO Action: _____
Date: _____

**PETITION FOR
FORMATION OF THE
SAN ANTONIO BASIN WATER DISTRICT**

(pursuant to Government Code Sections 56700 and 56860: Water Code Section 34165)

(Name of Proposal)

The undersigned by their signature hereon DO HEREBY REPRESENT REQUEST AND PETITION as follows:

1. **The proposal is made pursuant to Part 3, Division 3, and Title 5 of the California Government Code** (commencing with Section 56000, Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000).

2. **The nature of the proposed change of organization** (i.e., annexation, detachment, Reorganization, etc.) is:

to form a California Water District pursuant to Division 13 of the California Water Code (commencing at section 34000, the "Principle Act").

3. **The name or names of all districts** and/or cities for which any such change or organization is proposed is as follows:

"San Antonio Basin Water District".

4. **The names of all other affected counties, cities and districts are:**

This proposal affects Santa Barbara County only; it overlaps a portion of the Cachuma Resources Conservation District (CRCD). The proposed boundaries of the District would not include the Los Alamos Community Services District, which would be an "island" within the proposed District.

5. The territory(ies) proposed for inclusion within the District is/are: **inhabited** (12 or more people).

(**uninhabited** (less than 12 people) or **inhabited** (12 or more people))

6. This proposal is / ~~is not~~ **within the sphere of influence** of the affected city and/or district. (Circle one)

Overlaps CRCD.

7. Complete description of the exterior boundaries of the territory proposed for formation. **Please attach legal description to this petition.**

8. Do the boundaries of the districts or cities listed above overlap or conflict with the boundaries of the proposed formation? X Yes No

If yes, justify the need for overlapping or conflicting boundaries:

The boundaries of the District to be formed overlap with a portion of the boundaries of the CRCD. The CRCD and Los Alamos Community Services District have entered a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) serving as the GSA for the San Antonio Basin, with a provision that if Petitioners create a water district, upon notice from the water district it shall automatically assume and succeed to the rights and responsibilities of the CRCD under the JPA to the newly formed water district. The County of Santa Barbara and Vandenberg Air Force Base have agreed to participate with the GSA in an advisory fashion. Petitioners wish to provide a vehicle for local management as described further at #14 A below.

9. List any of the districts or cities, as above-listed, which possess authority to perform the same or similar function as requested herein.

The County of Santa Barbara/Santa Barbara County Water Agency and the CRCD.

(Name of public agency or agencies)

10. Do the boundaries of the territory proposed split lines of assessment?
 Yes √ No, the proposed boundary for the District does not split assessor parcels.

11. Do the boundaries of the territory proposed create an island or corridor of unincorporated territory or a strip? √ Yes No

If yes, justify the necessity for the island corridor or strip:

The proposed boundary will create one island for the Los Alamos Community Services District which overlies the basin, to enable it to continue to manage the groundwater resources within its boundaries under existing authority.

12. If the proposed boundary follows a street or highway, does it follow the center of the street or highway? Yes No

Not Applicable

13. It is desired that this proposal provide for and be made subject to the following terms and conditions:

- A. The District, if formed, would cease to exist if a Proposition 218 Proceeding referenced at # 19 below is not conducted and an assessment to fund the District has not been approved by March 31, 2019, or other arrangements are made for funding the District with approval of Santa Barbara LAFCO.

14. The reasons for this proposal are:

- A. The San Antonio Groundwater Basin is a major agricultural area of the State that is not within an organized water or other similar type of district, and is totally dependent on use of groundwater. The purpose for forming the District would be to provide a public agency with the powers and abilities to, among other things, (i) administer, develop, construct and operate projects and programs to enhance water supplies to help stabilize the groundwater conditions in the Basin, if needed, and (ii) advance groundwater management and conservation programs and thereby pursue stabilizing the Basin and sustaining its resources for the beneficial use of all who use water within the proposed District. The need for local groundwater management was highlighted with adoption of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 (Water Code § 10720 et seq., "SGMA"), which requires for the San Antonio Basin that certain groundwater management actions be taken by January 31, 2022 (this basin is not designated as being in critical overdraft). This District will provide a governmental structure for local control and management within the proposed District to take appropriate actions to comply with SGMA in coordination with the Los Alamos CSD and Vandenberg Air Force Base and with the advice of the Santa Barbara County Water Agency. As noted above, the CRCD and Los Alamos Community Services District have entered a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) serving as the GSA for the San Antonio Basin, with a provision that if Petitioners create a water district, upon notice from the water district it shall automatically assume and succeed to the rights and responsibilities of the RCD under the JPA.

15. The persons signing this petition have signed as by holders of title to a majority of the area proposed for inclusions in the proposed District (Water Code § 34153).

16. If the formation of a new district is included in the proposal:

- A. The principal act(s) under which said district(s) is/are proposed to be formed is: the California Water District Law, Water Code Division 13, commencing at Water Code Section 34000;
- B. The proposed name(s) of the new district(s) is: "San Antonio Basin Water District;"
- B. The boundaries of the proposed new district(s) are as described in Exhibit(s) A, and as illustrated by the map at Exhibit B, both, heretofore incorporated herein.

17. If an incorporation or formation of a district is in the proposal:

A. The proposed name of the new city/district is: San Antonio Basin Water District

B. Provisions are requested for appointment of: Not Applicable.

- i. City/District Manager _____ Yes _____ No
- ii City Clerk & City Treasurer _____ Yes _____ No
(City only)

Number of members proposed for initial Board of Directors/City Council, pursuant to Water Code § 34708.

A. (Please check one, below.)

_____ 3 (Three) ___X___ 5 (Five)

18. If the proposal includes the consolidation of special districts, the proposed name of the consolidated district(s) is/are: Not Applicable.

19. How will the new district be financed?

To finance the new district it is anticipated the newly elected Board of Directors, once seated, would levy an assessment in accordance with Part 7 of the Water District Law (Water Code § 36550 et seq., and specifically § 36577) to pay District expenses, which would be subject to a Proposition 218 assessment ballot proceedings/election (Calif. Constitution Article XIID). It is also anticipated that certain funds held by CRCD would transfer to the new water district. The principal initial expense of the water district would be to operate as a member of the GSA and, in coordination with the Los Alamos CSD, develop a Groundwater Sustainability Plan pursuant to SGMA. As part of that Plan, groundwater extraction fees may later be imposed based on groundwater pumping to partially fund the needs of the water district to implement the Plan.

20. Proponents of this proposal: (Names of Chief Petitioners, not to exceed three (3), who hereby request that proceedings be taken in accordance with the provisions of Section 56000, et. seq. of the Government Code and herewith affix signatures) as follows:

Please sign on the top line and print on the line below.

Name	Mailing Address
Brandi Branquino	
Jenny Hardin	
Russell Chamberlin	

When a form is completed and the requisite number of qualified signatures has been obtained (after circulation), the petition is to be filed with the Executive Officer.

21. Additional Items required by Water Code Section 34165 (not otherwise addressed herein):

- (a) The **acreage** included in the proposed district, as illustrated at Exhibit B, is approximately 88,300 acres.
- (b) The **place of the principle business** (address) of the proposed district- will be determined by the newly elected Board of the District after formation.
- (c) The **common source of supply** for all landowners within the proposed district is groundwater, which the proposed district would seek to enhance through programs and activities and groundwater management activities, including implementation of SGMA.

Additionally, it is requested that the Commission provide for procedures for the nomination of candidates for the initial Board of Directors, to be elected in conjunction with the Formation Election, consistent with the Water Code.

Signatures of Petitioners

[Petitioners' signature pages and Certification of Circulator following]

The petition and signature sheets must be left intact. Removal of the signature sheets from one counterpart to another counterpart will invalidate the entire petition.

NOTE: THIS PAGE MUST BE COMPLETED AND ATTACHED TO EACH PETITION.

According to Election Code, Section 104, whenever any petition is submitted to the elections official, each section of the petition shall have attached to it a declaration signed by the Circulator of the petition, setting forth, in the Circulator's own hand, the following:

PRINTED NAME OF CIRCULATOR (including given name, middle name or initial and last name):

RESIDENCE ADDRESS OF CIRCULATOR:

DATES ON WHICH ALL SIGNATURES TO THE PETITION WERE OBTAINED:

Starting date: _____

Ending date: _____

The Circulator, by affixing his/her signature below, hereby certifies:

1. That the Circulator circulated the attached petition and witnessed the appended signatures being written;
2. That, according to the best information and belief of the Circulator, each signature is the genuine signature of the person whose name it purports to be;
3. That the Circulator shall certify to the content of the declaration as to its truth and correctness, under penalty, or perjury under the laws of the State of California, with the signature of his or her name at length, including given name, middle name or initial, and last name.

Date

Name (as required above)



