

LAFCO MEMORANDUM

SANTA BARBARA LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

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September 5, 2024 (Agenda)

TO: Each Member of the Commission

FROM: Mike Prater
Executive Officer

SUBJECT: REPORT ON MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW PROGRAM

This is an Informational Report. No Action is Necessary

DISCUSSION

This status report is to bring the Commission and public up-to-date with regard to the Sphere of Influence (SOI) Update and Municipal Service Review (MSR) being prepared for Parks & Recreation, Open Space, Library and Facility Rental Services. LAFCO is required by the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Act to update the Sphere of Influence for a jurisdiction every five years or as needed.

The Update is consistent with LAFCO's work plan adopted by the Commission. LAFCO Staff has completed an Administrative Draft of the MSR that agency's staff are reviewing and providing comments on. This status report is informational in nature and provides an opportunity to identify issues and questions prior to the public review draft and hearings. Also, the public is invited to provide any feedback or questions about the documents or the process. No action is requested by the Commission at this time. Please provide us with any comments, insights and questions you may have about the documents or the process.

Administrative Review Draft

The Admin Review Draft SOI/MSR Update will describe the various population trends, opportunities and challenges and service capabilities, and governmental structure for each jurisdiction as required by the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Act. The MSR along with the analysis and determinations called for by the Government Code are used to support the Sphere of Influence Update. The following 8 agencies SOI will be updated as part of this current review:

Cachuma Resource Conservation District,
Cuyama Valley Recreation & Parks District
Isla Vista Recreation & Park District

Los Alamos 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 Area)

Background

The Sphere of Influence Update and Municipal Service Reviews for the Parks & Recreation, Open Space, Library and Facility Rental Services agencies is out for Administrative review by the agencies. The scheduled release for public review is expected to start October/November 2024. The Admin Review includes a one Study Area covering the City of Santa Maria.

Study Areas. For study purposes, the City of Santa Maria existing sphere of influence covering the Orcutt community area is studied. A total of 4,000 acres are being evaluated. LAFCO staff along with the County Surveyor’s Office will prepare maps that include the Study Areas and for each Spheres of Influence. The Study Areas are used to help analyze and identify which properties should remain/be included and which should be excluded from the respective Spheres of Influence. A summary of the Study Areas is listed in the table below.

Table 1: City of Santa Maria Study Areas

Study Area	Description	Acres	Existing Zoning	Prime AG Land	Constraints
1	Orcutt	4,000	27 different land use designations with 34 different zoning types	Yes, a small portion	Unknown
	Totals	4,000			

City of Santa Barbara Island Service Extension and Annexation Agreement. Over the past few months, the City and LAFCO staff have had purposeful discussions addressing the number of service extension requests, particularly those within the island areas that could be memorialized in a potential future agreement. A number of factors would need to be considered, including socio-economic status and failing systems of the areas, demand for services, schedule, cost sharing and infrastructure needs/upgrades, development standards and land use planning by the City, etc. Staff believes positive step towards achieving the goals of all agencies: promoting orderly development while balancing efficient provision of municipal services and City budget constraints is important. The principles of an agreement could address timing of initiation, service connections, deferral of future annexations under the agreement. If the Commission believes this approach has merit, staff will continue to work with the affected agencies to develop a workable agreement.

Public Agencies included in the MSR Report

- Cachuma Resource Conservation District,
- Cuyama Valley Recreation & Parks District,
- Embarcadero Municipal Improvement District,
- Isla Vista Recreation & Park District,
- Los Alamos Community Services District,
- Isla Vista Community Services District,
- County Service Area 3 (Goleta),
- County Service Area 4 (North Lompoc),
- County Service Area 5 (Orcutt),
- County Service Area 11 (Summerland & Carpinteria),
- 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

Public Outreach

Staff has presented updates regarding the MSR Program at your May 2, 2024 meeting. All agencies and staff are providing responses on the Administrative Draft. A short Community Survey is available at our website www.sblafco.org for community members to participate in expressing their level of satisfaction with the level of service. Staff continues to offer meetings with any agencies and their respective Boards/Councils to further discuss the MSR/SOI Update.

Notice of Exemption (Appendix). The purpose of the environmental review process is to provide information about the environmental effects of the actions and decisions made by LAFCO and to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). In this case, all recommended Study Area that may be added to the respective agencies Sphere of Influence will likely be determined to qualify as a Categorical Exemption of Class 3 and Class 19, or with certainty that there is no possibility that the project will have a significant environmental effect on the environment and therefore found to be exempt from CEQA pursuant to section 15061(b)(3) of the State Guidelines. This determination will be presented once all recommended Study Areas have been completed and the Local Agency Formation Commission has made its approval of the Sphere of Influence Update.

Please contact the LAFCO office if you have any questions.