

SANTA BARBARA LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

June 4, 2009 (Agenda)

- LAFCO 09-2: Dissolution of County Service Area No. 45 (Lompoc Library)
- PROPONENT: Santa Barbara Local Agency Formation Commission, by resolution.
- ACREAGE & LOCATION All territory in County Service Area No. 45 extending from the Pacific Ocean to midway between Buellton and Lompoc including the Lompoc Valley, surrounding hills and much of Vandenberg Air Force Base.
- PURPOSE: To dissolve a special district that provides no services and is a non-user of corporate powers with no expectation of providing future services.

GENERAL ANALYSIS:

History and Background

County Service Area No. 45 (Lompoc Library) was formed in 1992. It is a County-governed special district intended to provide support to operate public libraries within its boundaries but has no special tax or other funding mechanism, nor does it have assets, real or monetary.

The District includes the Lompoc Valley, surrounding hills, much of Vandenberg Air Force Base and extends halfway between Lompoc and Buellton. Its boundaries and sphere of influence are coterminous. A map of the District and its sphere is enclosed.

In preparing Municipal Service Reviews it was determined that although the district was created to enhance library services it has never been active, providing no services since its formation. It was created in anticipation of the voters enacting a local tax or benefit assessment, which has never occurred.

Consideration of utilizing County Service Area No. 45 as the vehicle for property owners in the Vandenberg Village area to authorize a special tax to support enhanced library services was the subject on an election in November 2006. The election failed in that the necessary percentage of voters did not support the special tax as proposed.

Ability of LAFCO to Initiate Boundary Changes

Government Code Section 56375 grants the Commission the power to initiate proposals for the dissolution of a special district provided that change is consistent with a recommendation or conclusion of a Municipal Service Review.

Project Information

1. Land Use, Planning and Zoning - Present and Future:

The district includes a variety of residential, commercial, institutional, open space and public uses. City and County General Plans and zoning within the district include a variety of residential, commercial, institutional and open space designations.

There will be no change in land use, general plans or zoning as a result of this dissolution.

Surrounding land uses are primarily open space and agricultural the east, north and south and the Pacific Ocean to the west.

2. Topography, Natural Features and Drainage Basins

The topography of the proposal and surrounding areas has variations of level, rolling hills and steeper slopes. There are no significant natural boundaries affecting the proposal.

3. Population:

Due to the nature of the proposal no new homes are proposed or will result.

4. Governmental Services and Controls - Need, Cost, Adequacy and Availability:

The district being dissolved provides no services nor is it anticipated to provide services at any time in the future.

If there is a future proposal to form a special district to support library services it should be accompanied by a concurrent election to authorize a financing mechanism.

5. Environmental Impact of the Proposal:

LAFCO is the lead agency. It is recommended the Commission find the dissolution to be categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to Class 20, "Changes in government organization where the changes do not change the geographical area in which previously existing powers are exercised."

It is also recommended the staff be directed to issue the enclosed Notice of Exemption.

6. Boundaries and Lines of Assessment:

The district boundaries are definite and certain. While the district does not provide services it still requires County departments to maintain tax rate area maps and records reflecting the existence of the district.

7. Assessed Value, Tax Rates and Indebtedness:

The dissolution includes the entire assessed value of County Service Area No. 45. Overall tax rates or tax allocations will not be affected by this change.

8. Dissolution is Permitted Without Election:

Government Code Section 57102 (a) provides that when ordering a dissolution, the Commission shall make findings upon one or more of the following matters:

1. That the corporate powers have not been used, as specified in Section 56871, and that there is a reasonable probability that those powers will not be used in the future.
2. That the district is a registered-voter district and is uninhabited.
3. That the board of directors of the district has, by unanimous resolution, consented to the dissolution of the district.
4. That the commission has authorized, pursuant to Section 56854, the dissolution of the district without an election.

Section 57102 (b) provides that if the Commission makes any of the findings specified in subdivision (a) it may order the dissolution of the district without election.

Section 56871 defines a non user of corporate powers as follows: The district has been in existence for at least three years and one or more of the following conditions have existed or now exist:

- For three-years preceding the initiation of the dissolution any of the following events have not occurred:
  1. There has not been a duly selected and acting quorum of the board of directors of the district.

2. The board of directors has not furnished or provided services or facilities of substantial benefit to residents, landowners, or property within the district.
  3. The board of directors has not levied or fixed and collected any taxes, assessments, service charges, rentals, or rates or expended the proceeds of those levies or collections for district purposes.
- For one-year period preceding the initiation of the dissolution a quorum of the duly selected and acting board of directors has not met for the purpose of transacting district business.
  - Upon initiation of the dissolution, the district had no assets, other than money in the form of cash, investments, or deposits.

Clearly the Commission can find County Service Area No. 45 can be dissolved without an election as a non-user of corporate powers.

#### ALTERNATIVES FOR COMMISSION ACTION

Following review of any testimony and materials that are submitted, the Commission should consider the following options:

OPTION 1 – Adopt this report and APPROVE the proposal.

- A. Find the proposal to be categorically exempt and direct staff to issue a notice of exemption pursuant to Class 20.
- B. Adopt this report and approve the proposal to be known as the Dissolution of County Service Area No. 45 (Lompoc Library)
- C. Find the district to be a non-user of corporate powers and order the dissolution to occur without an election.
- D. Direct the staff to initiate and conduct subsequent proceedings in compliance with the decision of the Local Agency Formation Commission only upon the signing of the resolution by the Chair.

OPTION 2 – Adopt this report and DENY the proposal:

OPTION 3 - CONTINUE this proposal to a future meeting for additional information.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Approve OPTION 1.

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BOB BRAITMAN  
Executive Officer  
LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION