

# Santa Barbara LAFCO

Updates to Municipal Service Reviews/Spheres of Influence

December 4, 2014

# Status Report on Updates to Municipal Service Reviews/Spheres of Influence for Cities and Special District in Santa Barbara County

- The Commission is interested in developing a schedule for updating Municipal Service Reviews/Spheres of Influence for Cities and Special District in Santa Barbara County.
- The intent of this staff report is to present information to enable the Commission to evaluate the status of Santa Barbara LAFCO's Municipal Service Reviews/Spheres of Influence program and to provide direction to staff to develop an update schedule.
- The Commission has fulfilled its statutory requirement to adopt written MSR determinations and adopt SOI's for all cities and special districts within the County.

# Requirements of Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Act

- According to State law, the Commission is directed to review and update SOI's every five years, as necessary.
- However, a decision needs to be made on how to proceed with MSR/SOI updates. For instance, does the update program proceed with in-house staff, should outside consultant funds be budgeted, or a combination in-house staff and outside consultants. This decision is tied directly to the future staffing decisions and development of the 2015-16 SBLAFCO budget.
- The Commission last reviewed and considered updating Municipal Service Review/Spheres of Influence between November 2010 and April 2012

# Current Status of MSR/SOI Program

- The Commission last reviewed and considered updating Municipal Service Review/Spheres of Influence between November 2010 and April 2012
- Before that a more comprehensive Municipal Service Review/Spheres of Influence program was completed between 2005 and 2007
- During 1995-96, Municipal Service Reviews/Spheres of Influence were verified
- For the most part, spheres of influence in Santa Barbara County have been reviewed and amended in response to applications for changes of organization/reorganizations

# Previous Process for Municipal Service Reviews/Sphere of Influence Update

- For the last cycle of Municipal Service Reviews/Sphere of Influence updates (November 2010- April 2012) shown on **Exhibit A**, a Commission-approved work plan directed staff to confer with each city and special district to determine whether changes had occurred that would necessitate an in-depth Municipal Service Review in connection with updating the agency's sphere of influence.
- The 2005-2007, sphere of influence determinations, as shown in **Exhibit B**, were used as a basis for determining whether changes necessitating an in-depth Municipal Service Review/Sphere of Influence update should take place.
- If the initial review indicated that no changes were needed in the current sphere, LAFCO staff was directed to prepare a resolution for the Commission to confirm the existing sphere of influence. However, if the initial review determined that circumstances require a more detailed evaluation, staff was directed to prepare a new MSR and SOI update, with appropriate compliance with CEQA.

# Statutory Requirement to Periodically Update Spheres of Influence

- The Commission's enabling statute, the Cortese-Know-Hertzberg Act, as revised in 2001 states "On or before January 1, 2008, and every five years thereafter, the commission shall, as necessary, review and update each sphere of influence (emphasis added).
- The last round of spheres of influence review began in November 2010 and was completed in April 2012. Almost all of these updates were a "confirmation of existing SOL's."
- Five years from the November 4, 2010 date is November 4, 2015. Five years from the April 5, 2012 date is April 5, 2017.

# RECOMMENDATION

- It is recommended that the Commission consider the status report on Updates to Municipal Service Reviews/ Spheres of Influence (MSR/SOI) for Cities and Special District in Santa Barbara County and provide direction to staff on development of an Update Schedule.