

LAFCO

Santa Barbara Local Agency Formation Commission

105 East Anapamu Street ♦ Santa Barbara CA 93101

805/568-3391 ♦ FAX 805/647-7647

www.sblafco.org ♦ lafco@sblafco.org

March 7, 2013 (Agenda)

Local Agency Formation Commission
105 East Anapamu Street, Room 403
Santa Barbara CA 93101

Twenty Year Report on LAFCO Activities (1993 to 2013)

Dear Members of the Commission:

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended the Commission receive and file this report.

DISCUSSION

Prior to 1963, decisions to expand the boundaries of cities and special districts in California were made by each agency and those who were being annexed. No third party approval or countywide oversight was required.

This situation, coupled with significant population growth following World War II, contributed to illogical governmental boundaries and urban sprawl. Annexation “wars” had evolved between some local agencies, and other areas needing public services were left out.

In this environment the Legislature was motivated to create in each county a new and powerful agency, composed entirely of locally-selected officials, to bring about more orderly and efficient local agencies by regulating governmental boundaries. The State Legislature, in 1963, created a Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) in each county.

The Twenty Year Report on the activities of the Santa Barbara LAFCO from 1993 to 2013 was previously distributed to all members of the Commission, past commissioners and all local agencies. It is also online at the Santa Barbara LAFCO website, www.sblafco.org.

During this time 34 County residents served as members of the Commission. Thirteen have been County Supervisors, fifteen have been mayors or city councilmembers, nine have been members of special district boards of directors and six have been members of the general public.

Commissioners: Roger Aceves, Chair ♦ Doreen Farr ♦ Craig Geyer ♦ Jeff Moorhouse ♦ Bob Orach ♦ Bob Short
Janet Wolf ♦ John Fox ♦ Steve Lavagnino ♦ Jim Richardson ♦ Roger Welt **Executive Officer:** Bob Braitman

AGENDA ITEM NO.

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During this twenty year period the Commission has reviewed and made numerous decisions regarding the boundaries and service areas of local agencies:

- There have been 44 annexations to cities consisting of 4,297 acres, three detachments from cities totaling 19 acres and 26 instances where LAFCO allowed cities to provide municipal services without annexation.
- There have been 194 annexations to special districts. These annexations total about 18,361 acres, excluding the exceedingly large annexations to Santa Barbara County Fire Protection District and Mosquito and Vector Control District. If annexations to these two districts are included, acreage of completed annexations exceeds three million acres of territory.

In addition there have been 72 detachments from special districts, mainly from the Santa Barbara County Fire Protection District (40 detachments, 3,898 acres) in conjunction with annexing territory to cities that provide fire protection services and from the Goleta Water District (13 detachments, 243 acres) as land has been annexed to the City of Santa Barbara.

In addition to regulating boundaries and service areas, the Commission plans the organization of local agencies in Santa Barbara County. A “Sphere of Influence” is a LAFCO-adopted plan for the probable boundaries and service area of a local agency.

The governing statute is the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act. As this State law has evolved so have the duties of LAFCO. In 2001 the statute was amended to require LAFCOs by January 1, 2008, and every five years thereafter, to review and update as necessary each Sphere of Influence. The Commission periodically reviews and updates the Spheres of Influence of all cities and special districts.

In addition, the Commission has conducted public hearings and decided 40 Spheres of Influence modifications related to specific city and special district boundary changes.

In order to help inform the Sphere of Influence process, LAFCO is now required to conduct a review of the municipal services provided in areas designated by the Commission. In compliance with this law, the Commission has prepared Municipal Service Reviews while updating Spheres of Influence for all cities and special districts.

In conjunction with planning and regulating the boundaries and service areas of cities and special districts, during the past twenty years the Commission has conducted or received numerous studies of local governmental issues. These are enumerated in the report.

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In 1995 Commission membership was expanded to include two members from independent special districts, for a total of seven voting members. This was in exchange for LAFCO gaining jurisdiction over the exercise of what are termed the "latent powers" of the special districts.

In 1999 LAFCO created a website, www.lafco@sblafco.org. It includes a Commission roster, meeting dates, notices, agendas and minutes, application forms, staff reports, processing procedures, the budget and a directory of cities and special districts in Santa Barbara County.

Commission staffing has been remarkably consistent. In these twenty years there has been only one Executive Officer, two Commission Clerks and two Legal Counsels.

Please contact the LAFCO office if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,



BOB BRAITMAN
Executive Officer

cc: LAFCO Commissioners since 1993
Members of the Board of Supervisors
Each City and Special District
County Departments
Santa Barbara County Grand Jury
County Legislative Delegation

March 7, 2013 (Agenda)

TO: Each Member of the Commission and
Interested Parties

From: Bob Braitman
Executive Officer

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