

Santa Barbara LAFCO

Report on Municipal Service Reviews/ Sphere of
Influence Updates

October 5, 2017

Sphere of Influence Review Process

- The law requires that Spheres of Influence be updated every five years. The Santa Barbara Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) received a report from its staff regarding a proposed program and schedule to review and update Spheres of Influence for the cities and special districts in Santa Barbara County.
- After receiving the report and discussing the update program, the Commission directed the Executive Officer to confer with local agencies regarding whether changes necessitate new Municipal Service Reviews to update their Spheres of Influence. Updates will be prepared “as necessary” if there are significant changes to the city’s general plan, funding levels, or requested sphere of influence revisions.

Sphere of Influence Review Process

- At the January 7, 2016 meeting, the Commission reaffirmed spheres of influence for the following cities:
 - City of Buellton
 - City of Guadalupe
 - City of Lompoc
 - City of Santa Barbara
 - City of Santa Maria
 - City of Solvang
- The six cities, listed requested that the Commission reaffirm their existing spheres of influence. This action is exempt from CEQA because no changes were made to exiting spheres of influence.

Sphere of Influence Review Process

- City of Carpinteria: At the January 7, 2016 meeting, the Commission amended the sphere of influence for the City of Carpinteria to delete two areas:
 - Area I was part of the recently approved Linden Avenue and Casitas Pass Road interchanges and Via Real Extension Improvements project.
 - Area II was roughly half of the Carpinteria Cemetery Property (APN 005-430-050) is within the City's sphere of influence.
- City of Goleta: On February 16, 2016, the City Council of Goleta voted to request that LAFCO add three areas to its sphere of influence.
 - Goleta City staff was advised that to begin the Municipal Service Review/Sphere of Influence Update process, an application and questionnaire should be submitted to LAFCO. To date no application has been filed with LAFCO staff.

Special District Sphere of Influence Updates

Between February 12 and 17, 2016, staff sent out Municipal Service Review/Sphere of Influence Update letters to the following special districts:

- Carpinteria Cemetery District
- Goleta Cemetery District
- Guadalupe Cemetery District
- Lompoc Cemetery District
- Los Alamos Cemetery District
- Oak Hill Cemetery District
- Santa Maria Cemetery District

Special District Sphere of Influence Updates (Cont'd)

- Carpinteria Sanitary District
- Carpinteria/Summerland Fire Protection District
- Carpinteria Valley Water District
- Summerland Sanitary District
- Goleta Sanitary District
- Goleta Water District
- Goleta West Sanitary District
- Montecito Fire Protection District
- Montecito Sanitary District
- Montecito Water District

Special District Updates (Cont'd)

- The following special districts responded and on May 5, 2016, the Commission confirmed the existing Municipal Service Review/Sphere of Influence for the following independent special districts:
- Goleta Cemetery District
- Goleta Sanitary District (Revised Language)
- Goleta Water District
- Montecito Sanitary District
- Summerland Sanitary District

Special District Updates (Cont'd)

- This was followed on August 5, 2016, with the Commission confirmed the existing Municipal Service Review/Sphere of Influence for the following independent special districts:
 - Goleta Sanitary District
 - Goleta West Sanitary District (Revised Language)
 - Santa Maria Cemetery District
 - Oak Hill Cemetery District
 - Guadalupe Cemetery District
 - Lompoc Cemetery District
 - Los Alamos Cemetery District

Special District Updates (Cont'd)

- On May 5, 2016, the Commission adopted resolutions confirming the Sphere of Influence for the Goleta Sanitary District. However, the minutes of the September 1, 2005 meeting referred to a “Supplemental Report” that was not included on the SBLAFCO website. The Supplemental Report deleted all reference to a “Common Sphere of Influence” for the Goleta Sanitary District and the Goleta West Sanitary District.
- Instead, the Commission adopted spheres of influence for both districts that include their respective district boundaries and not a “common sphere of influence.”

Special District Updates (Cont'd)

- The staff report lists the Cities and Independent Special Districts were updated in the past year. In addition, two special districts, the Isla Vista Community Services District and the Cuyama Basin Water District, were formed in 2016 and allocated a sphere of influence that are coterminous with the current district boundaries.
- Lastly, the following special districts were sent update letters, but did not respond:
 - Carpinteria Valley Water District
 - Montecito Fire Protection District
 - Montecito Water District

It should also be noted that the Carpinteria Sanitary District verbally requested inclusion of additional agricultural areas in its sphere of influence and were advised that an application and questionnaire should be submitted to LAFCO. To date, no application has been filed with LAFCO staff.

Pending Municipal Service Reviews/Spheres of Influence

- There are 22 independent special district that have not been reviewed. Three of these did not respond to the original LAFCO request letter.
- In addition, there are 13 dependent special district, including 8 County Service Areas, that have not been reviewed or updated by the Commission

Conclusion

- The Commission directed the Executive Officer to confer with local agencies regarding whether service or planning changes necessitate new Municipal Service Reviews to update their Spheres of Influence. Updates are being prepared “as necessary” if there are significant changes to the city’s general plan, funding levels, or requested sphere of influence revisions. Staff has consulted all Cities and the Special Districts listed on page two of this report. Seven of the eight cities MSR/SOI have been confirmed or amended. Nineteen of the 37 special districts MSR/SOI have been adopted, confirmed or amended. Staff will continue to work on the remaining updates.