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February 11, 2009 (Agenda)

Contra Costa Local Agency Formation Commission
651 Pine Street, Sixth Floor
Martinez, CA 94553

**Preliminary Municipal Services Review/Sphere of Influence Updates
Fire and Emergency Medical Services**

Dear Commissioners:

BACKGROUND

What are Municipal Service Reviews

Municipal Service Reviews (MSRs) provide an assessment of the ability of local government agencies (i.e., county, cities, special districts) to effectively and efficiently provide services to residents and users. The form and content of the MSR is provided for in the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 (CKH).

The purpose of MSRs is to provide information to the Commission to use in updating spheres of influence (SOIs) and considering future boundary changes for each local agency. LAFCO is not required to initiate boundary or SOI changes as part of service reviews. LAFCO, local agencies or the public may subsequently use the MSRs together with additional studies, where necessary, to pursue changes in jurisdictional boundaries, including annexations, reorganizations, district formations, and in considering extension of municipal services outside an agency's jurisdictional boundaries.

Government Code section 56375(a) gives LAFCO the power to initiate certain types of boundary changes consistent with MSRs and SOI studies. These boundary changes include:

- Consolidation of districts (joining two or more districts into a single successor district)
- Dissolution (termination of a district and its corporate powers)
- Merger (termination of a district by merging that district with a city)
- Establishment of a subsidiary district (where a city council becomes the board of directors of a district)
- Formation of a new district or districts
- A reorganization that includes any of the above

State Law Requirements

The CKH requires LAFCO to update the SOI for each local agency under its jurisdiction every five years, as needed; and that an MSR be prepared prior to or in conjunction with the SOI update.

Government Code section 56430 requires that service reviews include an analysis and written statement of determinations with respect to various factors, including growth and population; present and planned capacity of public facilities and adequacy of public services, including infrastructure needs or deficiencies; financial ability of agencies to provide services, opportunities for shared facilities, government and operational efficiencies, and other factors related to service delivery.

MSRs/SOI Updates in Contra Costa County

In February 2006, the Commission approved an MSR/SOI workplan and timeline. The workplan provides for a phased approach to complete the baseline MSRs/SOI updates for the 19 cities and approximately 30 special districts using a team of consultants and LAFCO staff. The approach involves a combination of countywide, sub-regional, and individual agency reviews as needed.

To date, LAFCO has completed baseline countywide healthcare and water/wastewater reviews, the first sub-regional MSR (East County), and individual MSRs for several districts. The Central and West County sub-regional MSRs are presently underway.

In addition, the second round MSRs for fire/emergency medical and reclamation services were recently initiated; the Commission will receive an overview of the fire MSR on February 11, 2009.

DISCUSSION

The Fire and Emergency Services MSR focuses on the services provided by the following agencies: cities of El Cerrito, Pinole and Richmond, County Service Area EM-1, Contra Costa County Fire Protection District (FPD), Crockett-Carquinez FPD, East Contra Costa FPD, Kensington FPD, Moraga-Orinda FPD, Rodeo-Hercules FPD, and San Ramon Valley FPD.

The MSR report focuses on the local agencies and their ability to provide. The MSR report includes the State-required determinations, along with preliminary SOI options and recommendations.

At the workshop on February 11, the MSR consultant will present an overview of the preliminary determinations and SOI options and recommendations.

The Commission is requested to provide initial comments to the project team at the workshop and direct staff to prepare the Public Review Draft report for circulation and consideration by the Commission in April 2009.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Receive the staff report and presentation,
2. Provide comments to the project team,
3. Direct the project team to prepare and circulate the Public Review Draft, and
4. Schedule a public hearing for April 8, 2009 to consider the Fire and Emergency Services Public Review Draft MSR/SOI Update.

Respectfully submitted,

LOU ANN TEXEIRA
EXECUTIVE OFFICER