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October 10, 2012 (Agenda)

October 10, 2012
 Agenda Item 7

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

Municipal Services Review/Sphere of Influence Updates - Library 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., counties, 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; however, LAFCO is not required to initiate boundary or SOI changes as part of MSRs. LAFCO, local agencies and the public may subsequently use the MSRs together with additional studies, where necessary, to pursue jurisdictional boundary changes, including annexations, reorganizations, district formations, consolidations, and in considering the extension of municipal services outside an agency's boundary.

Government Code §56375(a) gives LAFCO the power to initiate certain types of boundary changes consistent with MSRs and SOI studies. These boundary changes include 1) consolidation of districts (joining two or more districts into a single successor district); 2) dissolution (termination of a district and its corporate powers); 3) merger (termination of a district by merging that district with a city); 4) establishing a subsidiary district (i.e., a city council becomes the board of directors of a district); 5) forming a new district or districts; and 6) 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 §56430 requires that MSRs 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 2006, the Commission approved an MSR/SOI work plan to complete baseline MSRs/SOI updates for all cities and special districts using a team of consultants and LAFCO staff. The approach involves a combination of countywide, sub-regional, and agency specific reviews.

To date, LAFCO has completed inaugural countywide MSRs covering healthcare, water, wastewater, fire and emergency, reclamation, cemetery, mosquito/vector control, park & recreation, resource conservation and law enforcement services. Also, the Commission has completed sub-regional MSRs covering cities and community service districts.

The remaining first round MSRs include library services and miscellaneous County Service Areas (CSAs).

DISCUSSION

On July 11, the Commission held a workshop and received a preliminary overview of the Library Services MSR. The MSR consultant – Burr Consulting – provided information relating to the library services, focusing primarily on two library service providers, the City of Richmond and Contra Costa County (including four County Service Areas). The consultant presented preliminary data comparing Contra Costa library facilities, services, and financing to other Bay Area communities.

The Commission received public comment and provided input as to information they would like to see included in the MSR report specific to facilities, fiscal indicators, programs/services, and miscellaneous issues. On August 8, the Commission received a summary of these issues and a status report regarding the Library Services MSR.

At the LAFCO meeting on October 10, the MSR consultant will present Public Review Draft MSR report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Receive the staff report and consultant presentation,
2. Provide comments, and
3. Direct the project team to release the Public Review Draft MSR with a public hearing to follow.

Sincerely,

LOU ANN TEXEIRA
EXECUTIVE OFFICER
c: Distribution