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March 13, 2013 (Agenda)

March 13, 2013
 Agenda Item 8

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

**Miscellaneous County Service Areas Municipal Services Review and
 Sphere of Influence Updates**

Dear Members of the Commission:

BACKGROUND

The Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 (CKH Act) requires that not less than every five years, LAFCO prepare municipal service reviews (MSRs) prior to or in conjunction with sphere of influence (SOI) updates.

MSRs provide an assessment of the range and adequacy of municipal services provided in the County, and serve as an important tool for LAFCO in fulfilling its legislative mandate to coordinate the efficient and logical development of local government agencies and services. The MSR serves as a basis for the SOI updates and future boundary changes.

In 2006, the Commission approved an MSR/SOI work plan to complete inaugural MSRs/SOI updates for the 19 cities and 74 special districts. The work plan provides for a combination of service-specific (countywide), sub-regional, and agency-specific reviews. To date, LAFCO has completed inaugural countywide reviews covering healthcare, water/wastewater, fire/emergency, reclamation, cemetery, parks & recreation, resource conservation, mosquito & vector control, law enforcement and library services. LAFCO has also completed sub-regional MSRs covering all cities, as well as several agency-specific MSRs.

SUMMARY

In November 2011, LAFCO initiated an MSR covering the seven miscellaneous county services areas (CSAs) listed below. This MSR represents the first MSR for L-100 and T-1.

- CSA D-2 (drainage – Walnut Creek area)
- CSA L-100 (street lighting – unincorporated county)
- CSA M-1 (funding for ferry services – Bradford and Webb Tract islands)
- CSA M-20 (parkway maintenance - View Pointe subdivision - Rodeo)
- CSA M-23 (geologic hazard abatement, drainage - Blackhawk)
- CSA M-31 (transportation demand management program – Contra Costa Centre - Pleasant Hill area)
- CSA T-1 (public transportation demand management services – Danville/San Ramon area)

Burr Consulting was hired to prepare the MSR report. The MSR process entailed distribution of an initial Request for Information, followed by a Commission workshop in January 2013 at which time the consultant presented a preliminary overview of the agencies and issues covered in the MSR report and received comments from the Commission.

On February 21, the Public Review Draft MSR report was released. The report was posted on the LAFCO website (www.contracostalafco.org), and agencies and interested parties were made aware of the report and comment period, which ends on March 13.

At the LAFCO meeting on March 13, the consultant will provide an overview of the MSR report and findings, share comments received to date, and receive additional comments from the public and the Commission. The Commission will be asked to set a public hearing for April 17, at which time the Commission will consider accepting the Final MSR report, adopting the required determinations, and updating the SOIs for the seven CSAs.

DISCUSSION

Municipal Service Review - The *Miscellaneous CSA MSR* provides an overview of services provided by seven local agencies under LAFCO's purview. The report provides information relating to service demand, service adequacy, facilities and finances. The report also identifies critical issues and agency challenges, and showcases best practices.

In accordance with the MSR, LAFCO must prepare written determinations relating to various factors including the following:

- Growth and population projections
- Present and planned capacity of public facilities and adequacy of public services, including infrastructure needs or deficiencies
- Financial ability of agencies to provide services
- Status of and opportunities for shared facilities
- Accountability for community service needs, including governmental structure and operational efficiencies
- The location and characteristics of any disadvantaged unincorporated community within or contiguous to the SOI (*new factor*)

In addition, the MSR report provides governance and SOI/boundary options as discussed below.

Sphere of Influence Updates – The MSR serves as a basis for SOI updates and future boundary changes. Listed below are the MSR consultant's SOI recommendations for the seven CSAs covered in the MSR report. The consultant will provide further information at the March 13 LAFCO meeting. Additional information and analysis relating to governance and SOI options are presented in the MSR report. LAFCO staff will provide its recommendations to the Commission in April, at which time the Commission will be asked to accept the Final MSR report, make the required determinations and update the SOIs.

CSA D-2 – This CSA was formed in 1968 to provide funding for drainage infrastructure in the central portion of Walnut Creek, including both incorporated and unincorporated areas.

Consultant's Recommendation - Retain existing coterminous SOI

CSA L-100 – This CSA was formed in 1986 (consolidation of four districts) to provide funding for street lighting services for most of the developed, unincorporated areas in the County.

Consultant's Recommendation - Reduce SOI to exclude territory outside CSA bounds and territory within the SOIs of cities

CSA M-1 – This CSA was formed in 1960 and provides funding for the Delta Ferry Authority to defray a portion of its costs for ferry services to unincorporated Bradford Island and Webb Tract.

Consultant's Recommendation - Retain existing coterminous SOI

CSA M-20 – This CSA was formed in 1973 to provide parkway tree maintenance services to the View Pointe subdivision in unincorporated Rodeo.

Consultant's Recommendation - Retain existing coterminous SOI

CSA M-23 – This CSA was formed in 1977 and provides financing for drainage and geologic hazard abatement services to the unincorporated area of Blackhawk.

Consultant's Recommendation - Retain existing coterminous SOI

CSA M-31 – This CSA was formed in 2002 to finance shuttle and vanpool transit services to the Pleasant Hill/Contra Costa Centre BART station vicinity in unincorporated Walnut Creek.

Consultant's Recommendation - Expand SOI to include interior roads

CSA T-1 – This CSA was formed in 2006 to fund transit services to the Alamo Creek, Monterosso and Ponderosa Colony communities in unincorporated Camino Tassajara area.

Consultant's Recommendation - Adopt a provisional coterminous SOI and require the District to report back to LAFCO in 12 months with an update on CSA T-1's planning efforts.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Receive LAFCO staff and consultants reports,
2. Provide comments, and
3. Direct LAFCO staff to set a public hearing for April 17, 2013 to accept the Final MSR report, make the required determinations and approve the SOI updates.

Sincerely,

LOU ANN TEXEIRA
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

c: Distribution