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CONTRA COSTA LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION
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January 10, 2024 (Agenda)

**January 10, 2024
Agenda Item 8**

Contra Costa Local Agency Formation Commission
40 Muir Road, 1st Floor
Martinez, CA 94553

Policies and Procedures Update

Dear Members of the Commission:

This is a report from the LAFCO Policies & Procedures Committee recommending the following updates to the Commissioner Handbook. The Committee recommends updates to Section 2.1(I)(11) and Section 2.1(O), as follows:

Section 2.1 – POLICIES AND STANDARDS

Our current policy (Section 2.1(I)(4)) provides for maximum flexibility on the timing of MSRs and states “LAFCO will determine when MSRs are necessary. Generally, reviews will be prepared in conjunction with SOI studies or updates; however, MSRs may also be conducted independent of SOI updates based on a number of factors to be determined by the Commission. Such factors may include public health or safety issues, service provision issues associated with areas of potential growth or development, etc.”

Accordingly, to preserve this flexibility on timing, it is recommended that Section 2.1(I)(11) be revised as follows:

I. Municipal Service Reviews

11) Timing

On or before January 1, 2008, and every five years thereafter, the Commission shall, as necessary, review and update every sphere of influence [§56425(g)]. MSRs will be completed, as necessary, concurrent with SOI formations, updates, or substantial amendments, ~~but not less than every five years.~~

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It is also recommended that Section 2.1(O) be updated with more current information on total gross value of agricultural crops in Contra Costa County as follows:

O. Agricultural and Open Space Preservation Policy

Preface: The total gross value of agricultural crops in Contra Costa County was \$~~120,441,000~~ 109,440,491 in 2017. Agriculture is an important economic sector in Contra Costa County. The value of agriculture~~at~~ has fluctuated in recent years. Some worry that Contra Costa's agricultural industry may approach a tipping point beyond which agriculture becomes less viable due to a lack of labor, suppliers, and processors located nearby

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RECOMMENDATION: Approve amendments to Section 2.1, Policies and Standards, subsection (I)(11) and subsection (O), as proposed.

Respectfully submitted,
Don Blubaugh and Chuck Lewis