

Santa Barbara LAFCO

Proposed Isla Vista Community Services District

December 4, 2014

Proposed Formation of a Community Services District in Isla Vista

- On November 19, 2014, your Executive Officer attended a meeting with Assemblyman Das Williams, Senator Hannah Beth Jackson, and the Isla Vista Property Owner's Association (IVPOA) to discuss proposed new legislation to form a Community Services District (CSD) in Isla Vista.
- The legislators were proposing to introduce special legislation to form the CSD without LAFCO approval. This is to expedite the formation process and to add a hybrid board of directors to include property owners and well as registered voters. CSD's are registered voter districts established pursuant to Government Code Section 61000 – 61226.5.
- Assembly Bill 8 (Williams) was introduced on December 1, 2014

CSD Proposal

- The legislators mentioned that want to add funding for public safety for “other needs that are not being met by the County of Santa Barbara.” It was unclear from the discussion which services the proposed new CSD would provide, how these services would be funded, and how those services would solve the current problems in the area.
- A special committee charged with advising the university on issues facing the Isla Vista Community outlined several goals, recommendations and action items. This report was presented to the UC Santa Barbara Foundation Board of Trustees in November.
- An article on the report from The UC Santa Barbara Current is attached to the staff report. The full report is attached.

Structure of an Isla Vista Community Services District

- Generally, Community Services Districts are formed as part of a LAFCO Reorganization proceeding. For instance, the special districts overlapping an area would be dissolved and a new multi-service CSD would provide the services previously provided by the dissolving districts
- In the case of Isla Vista, there is an independent Recreation and Parks District, A County Service Area (CSA 31) that provides street lighting, sidewalk maintenance and street tree maintenance, the County Fire Protection District, Goleta West Sanitary District, Goleta Water District, Santa Barbara Metropolitan Transit District, and the Santa Barbara Vector Control District
- A new CSD could build upon the independent Park District structure, possibly supplant CSA 31, and possibly provide other functions currently provided by the County of Santa Barbara, however, it could not provide additional levels of service without new revenues.

Conclusion

- The proposal to form a Community Services District as a form of local governance in Isla Vista is intended to bypass the SBLAFCO process by implementing special legislation.
- LAFCO is the appropriate agency to review these types of district formations as established by the Cortese-Knox –Hertzberg Local Government Act of 2000.
- Whether or not a community services district is the appropriate form of local government for the community is a LAFCO decision that should not be bypassed.
- Community Services District have limitations on their powers and cannot provide additional levels of service without new revenues.
- Limited revenues would come from the dissolving districts or detachments from larger district that encompass the Isla Vista community.
- A decision needs to be made concerning the problem issues in Isla Vista and how a CSD with limited revenue and powers could solve those issues before going down the path of forming such a district

Recommendation

- It is recommended that the Commission review the report and provide direction to staff.