

LAFCO

Santa Barbara Local Agency Formation Commission

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February 5, 2009 (Agenda)

Local Agency Formation Commission
105 East Anapamu Street, Room 403
Santa Barbara CA 93101

Currently Authorized Services – County Service Areas

Dear Members of the Commission:

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended the Commission adopt the enclosed resolution specifying the types of services each County Service Areas is currently authorized to provide. Authorization for a County Service Area to provide an additional type of service will require LAFCO approval.

DISCUSSION

As reported to the Commission last year, Senate Bill 1458, which became effective on January 1, 2009, is a comprehensive rewrite of the County Service Area (CSA) Law. This statute begins at Government Code Section 25210.

CSAs are County-governed special districts. They provide governmental services and facilities within their boundaries that the County is authorized to perform, provided the County does not perform such services to the same extent on a countywide basis.

The CSA Law defines a "latent power" as any service or facility permitted by the CSA Law that LAFCO has determined a CSA was not authorized to provide prior to January 1, 2009. Specific types of services and facilities that CSAs can provide are enumerated in Exhibit A.

As rewritten, the CSA Law states if a board of supervisors desires that a CSA exercise a currently unauthorized power, the County shall first receive LAFCO approval. (Section 25213.5)

After receiving LAFCO approval, the CSA may exercise that latent power. LAFCO's authority, however, is restricted since it cannot authorize a CSA to exercise a latent power if it determines another local agency already provides substantially similar services or facilities to the territory where the CSA proposes to exercise the latent power.

Following are the CSAs within Santa Barbara County and the types of services they are currently authorized to provide. This information is taken from Municipal Service Reviews prepared by the Commission over the past few years and from our Directory of Local Agencies.

- CSA 3 (Goleta Valley): Street lighting, acquisition and maintenance of parks and open space, special tax support for enhanced library services and support for the Goleta Valley Community Center.
- CSA 4 (North Lompoc): Maintenance of open space.
- CSA 5 (Orcutt): Maintenance of parks and open space.
- CSA 11 (Carpinteria Valley): Street lighting.
- CSA 12 (Mission Canyon): Collection of sewage effluent and inspection of septic tanks.
- CSA 31 (Isla Vista): Street lighting and acquisition of open space in conjunction with a redevelopment agency.
- CSA 32 (Entire Unincorporated Area): Extended police protection.
- CSA 41 (Rancho Santa Rita): Maintenance of roadways.
- CSA 45 (Lompoc Library): Library services.

This report was provided in draft to the County staff who administer the CSAs as listed above. We have received no changes and there have been no requests received to provide additional types of services.

Please contact the LAFCO office if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,

BOB BRAITMAN
Executive Officer

Government Code Section 25213

A county service area may provide any governmental services and facilities within the county service area that the county is authorized to perform and that the county does not perform to the same extent on a countywide basis, including, but not limited to, services and facilities for any of the following:

- (a) Law enforcement and police protection.
- (b) Fire protection, fire suppression, vegetation management, search and rescue, hazardous material emergency response, and ambulances.
- (c) Recreation, including, but not limited to, parks, parkways, and open space.
- (d) Libraries.
- (e) Television translator stations and low-power television services.
- (f) Supplying water for any beneficial uses.
- (g) The collection, treatment, or disposal of sewage, wastewater, recycled water, and stormwater.
- (h) The surveillance, prevention, abatement, and control of pests, vectors, and vector borne diseases.
- (i) The acquisition, construction, improvement, and maintenance, including, but not limited to, street sweeping and snow removal, of public streets, roads, bridges, highways, rights-of-way, easements, and any incidental works.
- (j) The acquisition, construction, improvement, maintenance, and operation of street lighting and landscaping on public property, rights-of-way, and easements.
- (k) The collection, transfer, handling, and disposal of solid waste, including, but not limited to, source reduction, recycling, and composting.
- (l) Funding for land use planning within the county service area by a planning agency established pursuant to Article 1 (commencing with Section 65100) of Chapter 3 of Title 7, including, but not limited to, an area planning commission.
- (m) Soil conservation.
- (n) Animal control.
- (o) Funding for the services of a municipal advisory council established pursuant to Section 31010.
- (p) Transportation.

(q) Geologic hazard abatement on public or private property or structures where the board of supervisors determines that it is in the public interest to abate geologic hazards.

(r) Cemeteries.

(s) The conversion of existing overhead electrical and communications facilities, with the consent of the public agency or public utility that owns the facilities, to underground locations pursuant to Chapter 28 (commencing with Section 5896.1) of Part 3 of Division 7 of the Streets and Highways Code.

(t) Emergency medical services.

(u) Airports.

(v) Flood control and drainage.

(w) The acquisition, construction, improvement, maintenance, and operation of community facilities, including, but not limited to, cultural facilities, child care centers, community centers, Olibraries, museums, and theaters.

(x) Open-space and habitat conservation, including, but not limited to, the acquisition, preservation, maintenance, and operation of land to protect unique, sensitive, threatened, or endangered species, or historical or culturally significant properties. Any setback or buffer requirements to protect open-space or habitat lands shall be owned by a public agency and maintained by the county service area so as not to infringe on the customary husbandry practices of any neighboring commercially productive agricultural, timber, or livestock operations.

(y) The abatement of graffiti.

(z) The abatement of weeds and rubbish.