

LAFCO

Santa Barbara Local Agency Formation Commission

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November 6, 2003 (Agenda)

Local Agency Formation Commission

105 East Anapamu Street

Santa Barbara CA 93101

**Request to Expand the City of Santa Barbara Sphere of Influence to
Include Eastern Goleta Valley, Submitted by the Committee for One**

Dear Members of the Commission:

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Commission, after receiving public comments, provide direction to the staff regarding processing the Committee for One's request to expand the City of Santa Barbara's sphere of influence.

DISCUSSION

This matter is placed on the Commission's agenda at the request of the Committee for One.

In December 2002 the Committee submitted an application to expand the City of Santa Barbara's sphere of influence to include the eastern Goleta Valley. The Commission received that request and decided to consider it after the requirement is met to prepare Municipal Service Reviews and proper environmental documentation had been prepared. In March I advised the Committee of your decision to hear its request following the completion of Municipal Service Reviews for agencies in the Santa Barbara/Goleta Valley area.

Based on the Work Plan the Commission will consider Municipal Service Reviews by geographic areas of the County. First are local agencies in the Lompoc Valley; data collection is under way. Next will be agencies in the Santa Maria Valley, collection of data begins in late November. Agencies in the Santa Barbara/Goleta Valley area will follow, starting next March, with hearings anticipated in November 2004.

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Options available to the Commission appear to be (a) to maintain the current schedule for reviewing local agencies and preparing Municipal Service Reviews or (b) to modify the schedule to place the Santa Barbara/Goleta Valley area before the Santa Maria Valley area.

Staff does not recommend a third option, studying the Committee's application as a stand alone sphere "amendment" without first completing Municipal Service Reviews for the area, although the Commission should consider any testimony on this issue.

Given the size and complexity of the proposed sphere of influence change, the Committee's application appears to be similar in scope to a sphere "update" that requires a Municipal Service Review. Therefore, staff believes that the Commission should consider the application in the context of the sphere of influence update for the Santa Barbara/ Goleta Valley area as opposed to being a sphere "amendment" that could proceed on its own.

In preparing for this meeting staff met with representative of the Committee for One and the City of Santa Barbara. I understand the position voiced by the representatives of the City is that a sphere of influence update should await completion of the Municipal Service Reviews.

Please contact the LAFCO office if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

BOB BRAITMAN
Executive Officer

cc: Members of the Committee for One