

November 7, 2024 (Agenda)

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

Parks & Recreation, Open Space, Library and Facility Rental Services and Sphere Review

Dear Members of the Commission:

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Commission receive an oral staff report and set a public hearing for December 12, 2024 in order to consider accepting the service review.

DISCUSSION:

As part of the Commission's work program, the LAFCO staff has prepared a draft service and sphere review for 18 agencies that provide Parks & Recreation, Open Space, Library and Facility Rental services throughout the entire county. These include one Resource Conservation District (Cachuma RCD), two Recreation and Parks Districts (Cuyama Valley & Isla Vista), one Municipal Improvement District (EMID), two Community Services Districts (CSD) (Los Alamos & Isla Vista), four County Service Areas (County Service Area 3, County Service Area 4, County Service Area 5, County Service Area 11), along with all eight Cities (Buellton, Carpinteria, Goleta, Guadalupe, Lompoc, Santa Barbara, Santa Maria, and Solvang) that provide these services. The draft document is available at Santa Barbara LAFCO website **www.sblafco.org**.

The main conclusions are:

1. Eighty-nine percent of the residents of Santa Barbara County are currently within the boundaries of a City or Special District providing parks, recreation, open space, library, and facility rental services.
2. No Sphere of Influence change, or designation of a Future Study Area, is necessary or recommended for Cachuma Resources Conservation District, Cuyama Valley Recreation and Park District, Isla Vista Recreation and Park District, Los Alamos Community Services District, County Service Area 3, County Service Area 4, County Service Area 5, and County Service Area 11. Their Spheres of Influence already well define their probable service areas. The recommended action for these districts is to simply affirm their existing Spheres of Influence.
3. This Study covers approximately 2,737 acres containing lands that are serviced parks, recreation, open space, library, and facility rental services from 18 agencies. The Study areas also look at portions with overlapping services between agencies and new service needs for some agencies. The locations of the Study Areas are identified in a map within the agency's profile. The recommended Sphere of Influence would maintain existing boundaries for eight (8) agencies
4. The County's Community Services Department, Parks Division (County Parks Division) is currently leading the Recreation Master Plan process in close coordination with the cities and alternate service providers. The goal of the Recreation Master Plan is to foster interagency partnerships with a coordinated vision for recreation facilities and services in Santa Barbara County that meets changing needs now and in the future. The Recreation Master Plan will enhance the potential to combine the resources of service providers and increase efficiency of guided improvements to recreation services.
5. In Santa Barbara County there are over 69,000-acres of conservation easements and private conservation lands, 630,000-acres within the Federal Los Padres National Forest, 95,000-acres in other Federal lands, 102,100-acres in Federal Vandenberg Air Force Base, and 15,000-acres of State Lands that make-up the landscape of Santa Barbara County. There are 11,367 acres of land currently designated for Public or Private Recreation and/or Open Space in the unincorporated areas and generally include land owned by the County, California State Parks, the federal government, and some privately owned land.
6. The County contracts annually with four Cities (Santa Maria, Lompoc, Goleta, & Santa Barbara) and their municipal libraries to administer nine

branch libraries. Four of the branches are in smaller Cities and receive City and County funding. The remaining five branches are in unincorporated areas and have no other public funding source. The nine branches operate using the Black Gold Cooperative Library System. The sharing of resources between libraries in both San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara is available through interlibrary loans.

7. Each of the public agencies maintain various types of rental facilities spaces and in some cases share space with another agency. The largest number of regional shared rental facilities include Community and Senior Centers, Veteran Hall's, and swimming pools. There are also a number of these rental spaces that include recreational facilities, such as parks, playgrounds, and City Halls, Auditoriums, & indoor buildings/clubhouses. All of these rental spaces are open to the general public.
8. Of the 18 agencies providing parks, recreation, open space, library, and facility rental services all except for the Cuyama Valley Recreation and Park District maintain websites.

Attachments:

Attachment A: Draft 2024 Service and Sphere Review for Parks, Recreation, Open Space, Library, and Facility Rental Services. **Available at www.sblafco.org**

Please contact the LAFCO office if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Mike Prater
Executive Officer