

**MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW AND  
SPHERE OF INFLUENCE UPDATE**

**EASTERN SOUTH COAST  
AREA**

Report to the  
**Santa Barbara Local Agency  
Formation Commission**

November 3, 2005

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## A: INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

Local Agency Formation Commissions (or LAFCOs) are a method unique to California in dealing with population growth and public service conditions that became evident in a significant way following World War II.

During and after World War II California experienced a dramatic increase in population and economic development. These changes, together with increased personal mobility related to common automobile ownership, created growing demands for housing, public services and public infrastructure, often in suburban areas.

### 1. Before LAFCOs were created

Prior to 1964 decisions to expand city and special district boundaries were left to the annexing agency and the affected landowners. There was no external or third party oversight.

As a result, and due to the desires of some communities to capture their perceived share of new growth, annexation “wars” evolved between some agencies, with some expanding their area to be in a better a position to annex additional territory. The creation of new cities or special districts also occurred without any third party review.

A general lack of coordination led to a multitude of overlapping, inefficient jurisdictional and service boundaries and premature conversion of much of the State’s productive agricultural and open-space lands. The result was “urban sprawl.”

Recognizing these problems, in 1959 newly elected Governor Edmund G. Brown, Sr. appointed the Commission on Metropolitan Area Problems. It’s task was to study and make recommendations on the "misuse of land resources" and the growing complexity of local governmental jurisdictions.

The Commission's revelations about local governmental reorganization were converted into legislation enacted in 1963 that created a Local Agency Formation Commission in each county (except the City and County of San Francisco).

### 2. LAFCO regulation of boundary changes

Beginning in 1964, local boundary changes required approval of this new Commission with county-wide regulatory authority. Its broad goals and objectives include discouraging urban sprawl, encouraging the orderly formation and development of local governments based on local circumstances, promoting efficient and economical local governments and, where appropriate, guiding development away from agricultural and open space resources.

LAFCO regulates by approving or denying city and special district boundary changes and the extension of public services. It is empowered to undertake studies of local agencies and to initiate updates to the spheres of influence. Typically, applications to LAFCO originate with affected landowners and/or developers and cities or districts seeking to annex territory.

The Commission is an independent agency, exercising a direct grant of legislative authority from the State government. Its decisions, while subject to judicial review, are not appealable to the County or any other local or State-wide administrative body.

### 3. Santa Barbara LAFCO

The SB LAFCO consists of seven regular members: two members appointed by the Board of Supervisors from its own membership; two members of city councils appointed by the mayors of the cities in the County; two members of special district board appointed by the presiding officers of the independent special districts in the County; and one public member, appointed by the other Commissioners.

There are also four alternates – one in each category of member - who vote in the absence of a regular member. Commissioners are appointed to four-year terms.

The day-to-day business of the Commission, including analysis and recommendations about proposals is the responsibility of the Executive Officer. The Commission has legal counsel for assistance.

### 4. Legislative History (Significant Changes Only)

Through a series of legislative amendments over the past 30 years LAFCO has become responsible for coordinating logical and timely changes in the local governmental structure, including annexations and detachments of territory, incorporations of cities, formations of special districts, consolidations, mergers and dissolutions, and to regulate the extension of services by cities and special districts outside of their boundaries.

A brief timeline of significant legislation and litigation that shaped LAFCO's current powers and duties is useful to understanding the need for Municipal Service Reviews.

- 1964 LAFCO is created as a regulatory agency in each county to regulate cities and districts, promote orderly boundaries and discourage urban sprawl.
- 1971 LAFCO becomes a planning agency when directed by the Legislature to prepare and adopt a “sphere of influence” of each city and special district
- 1976 Due to a legal challenge to a city annexation, the courts declare LAFCOs are subject to the California Environmental Quality Act and annexations are “projects” under CEQA

- 1983 Responding to a lawsuit involving a special district annexation, the Legislature creates firm time limits within which LAFCOs must adopt spheres of influence or lose the ability to approve annexations.
- 1985 LAFCO and boundary change statutes are combined into one volume, the Cortese/ Knox Local Government Reorganization Act
- 1993 Significant reforms include allowing LAFCO to initiate some special district reorganizations and waive certain conduct authority protest hearings
- 2000 LAFCO required to (1) review and update spheres a least every five years and (2) prepare Municipal Service Reviews when updating spheres

5. Legislative Requirement to Prepare Municipal Service Reviews

Two separate studies recommended that LAFCOs review local agencies.

Little Hoover Commission - A May 2000 Little Hoover Commission report, *Special Districts: Relics of the Past or Resources for the Future?*, focused on governance and financial problems among independent special districts, and barriers to LAFCO’s pursuit of district consolidation and dissolution.

The report focused on the need for special districts oversight, noting “the underlying patchwork of special district governments has become unnecessarily redundant, inefficient and unaccountable.” It raised concerns about a lack of visibility and accountability among some independent special districts and indicated many special districts have excessive reserve funds and questionable property tax revenue. The report expressed concern about the lack of financial oversight of the districts.

The report called on the legislature to increase the oversight of special districts by mandating that LAFCOs identify service duplications and that LAFCOs study reorganization alternatives when service duplications are identified, when a district appears insolvent, when district reserves are excessive, when rate inequities surface, when a district’s mission changes, when a new city incorporates and when service levels are unsatisfactory. To accomplish this, the report recommended that the state strengthen the independence and funding of LAFCOs, require districts to report to their respective LAFCO, and require LAFCOs to study service duplications.

Commission on Local Governance - The second report, *Growth Within Bounds: Planning California Governance for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, had its genesis in legislation that created the Commission on Local Governance for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century in 1997. It was established to review current statutes on the policies, criteria, procedures and precedents for city, county and special district boundary changes.

The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Commission released its final report in January 2000. It examined how local government is organized and operates, and established a vision of how the state will grow by “making better use of the often invisible LAFCOs in each county”.

The report points to the expectation that California’s population will double over the first four decades of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, and raises concern that our government institutions were designed when our population was much smaller and our society was less complex. The report warns that, without a strategy, open spaces will be swallowed up, expensive freeway extensions will be needed, job centers will become farther removed from housing, and this will lead to longer commutes, increased pollution and a more stressful lifestyle. The report suggests local governments face unprecedented challenges in their ability to finance service delivery since voters cut property tax revenues in 1978 and the legislature shifted property tax revenues from local government to the schools in 1993.

The report recommended encouraging effective, efficient and easily understandable government and suggested that LAFCOs cannot achieve their fundamental purposes without a comprehensive knowledge of the services available within its county, the current efficiency of providing service within various areas of the county, future needs for each service, and expansion capacity of each service provider. Further, the report asserted that many LAFCOs lack such knowledge, and should be required to conduct such reviews to ensure that municipal services are logically extended to meet California’s future growth and development.

The Report’s recommendations were made part of the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000. The law requires LAFCO periodically update spheres of influence and review municipal services before updating them.

MSRs are intended to provide LAFCO and the public with a comprehensive study of existing and future public service conditions and evaluate organizational options to accommodate growth, prevent urban sprawl and ensure that critical services are provided efficiently and cost-effectively.

Government Code Section 56430, which became effective on January 1, 2001, requires LAFCO to review municipal services provided in geographic areas appropriate to the service or services to be reviewed, and prepare a written statement of determinations with respect to each of the following:

1. Infrastructure needs or deficiencies;
2. Growth and population projections for the affected area;
3. Financing constraints and opportunities;
4. Cost avoidance opportunities;
5. Opportunities for rate restructuring;
6. Opportunities for shared facilities;
7. Government structure options, including advantages and disadvantages of consolidation or reorganization of service providers;



8. Evaluation of management efficiencies; and
9. Local accountability and governance.

MSRs do not require LAFCO to initiate changes based on service review findings, only to make determinations regarding the provision of public services. LAFCO, local agencies and the public may subsequently use the determinations to analyze prospective changes of organization or reorganization or to establish or amend spheres of influence.

MSRs are not “projects” under the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act; they are feasibility or planning studies for *possible* future action that LAFCO has not approved.

The outcome of conducting an MSR may implement a recommended change of organization or reorganization. Either LAFCO or a local agency that submits a proposal may be the lead agency for compliance with CEQA and conduct an appropriate environmental review.

#### 6. Legislative Requirement to Update Spheres of Influence

Since 1971 LAFCO has been obligated to develop and adopt a sphere of influence for each city and special district within the county. The statute states “The Commission shall develop and determine the sphere of influence of each local governmental agency within the county and enact policies designed to promote the logical and orderly development of areas within the sphere.” (Government Code Section 56425)

Section 56076 defines a sphere of Influence as:

A plan for the probable physical boundaries and service area of a local agency, as determined by the commission.

The Cortese/Knox/Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 requires LAFCO, for the first time, to “review and update, as necessary, the adopted sphere not less than once every five years.” (Government Code Section 56425 (f)).

LAFCO is prohibited from approving a boundary change that is inconsistent with the adopted sphere for the affected agencies. It is therefore a planning tool to provide guidance for individual proposals involving jurisdictional changes. They are intended to encourage the efficient provision of public services and prevent service duplication.

The direct relationship between MSRs and Sphere of Influence Updates is in Government Code Section 56430, which states that “In order to prepare and to update spheres of influence in accordance with Section 56425, the Commission shall conduct a service review of the municipal services provided in the county or other appropriate area designated by the commission.”

In addition to the written determinations needed to adopt an MSR, whenever LAFCO adopts or amends a sphere of influence it must make the following additional written determinations:

1. Present and planned land uses in the area, including agricultural and open-space lands;
2. Present and probable need for public facilities and services in the area;
3. Present capacity of public facilities and adequacy of public service that the agency provides or is authorized to provide; and
4. Existence of any social or economic communities of interest in the area if the commission determines that they are relevant to the agency.

The statute contains procedural requirements for LAFCO to review and update spheres. The Commission must notify affected agencies 21 days before holding a public hearing to consider the sphere. The Executive Officer must issue a report and recommendations on the sphere updates under consideration at least five days prior to the public hearing.

7. City of Santa Barbara

Because the City of Santa Barbara has influence and relationships with both the Montecito and Goleta Valley it is discussed in this report and also in the MSR/SOI Update for the Santa Barbara/Goleta Valley Area. Any recommendations are specific for each of these areas.

8. Multi-Purpose vs. Single-Purpose Local Agencies

Government Code §56001, the second section in LAFCO's enabling statute, contains the following legislative policy language that may be relevant to the study of the local government structure in Eastern South Coast area.

The Legislature recognizes that urban population densities and intensive residential, commercial, and industrial development necessitate a broad spectrum and high level of community services and controls.

The Legislature also recognizes that when areas become urbanized to the extent that they need the full range of community services, priorities are required to be established regarding the type and levels of services that the residents of an urban community need and desire; that community service priorities be established by weighing the total community service needs against the total financial resources available for securing community services; and that those community service priorities are required to reflect local circumstances, conditions, and limited financial resources.

The Legislature finds and declares that a single multipurpose governmental agency is accountable for community service needs and financial resources and, therefore, may be the best mechanism for establishing community service priorities especially in urban areas. (Emphasis added)

Nonetheless, the Legislature recognizes the critical role of many limited purpose agencies, especially in rural communities.

The Legislature also finds that, whether governmental services are proposed to be provided by a single-purpose agency, several agencies or a multipurpose agency, responsibility should be given to the agency or agencies that can best provide government services.

This policy issue may be especially relevant for Montecito, a community served by three independent, limited-purpose special districts that provide fire protection, sanitation and water service for that community.

Likewise, the Carpinteria Valley is served by – in addition to a city – separate and independent fire protection, sanitation and water districts (though the fire protection district extends well beyond the community of Carpinteria).

In addition to the argument that one agency would be better able to balance service priorities for the community, there may be savings and efficiencies by having certain administrative and support services provided by a single local agency.

While no recommendations for governmental changes, or even to study governmental reorganizations or changes are proposed in this report, the Commission and the local agencies should remain open to all possibilities that might benefit the community.

# **CARPINTERIA SANITARY DISTRICT**

## **MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW AND SPHERE OF INFLUENCE UPDATE**

Report to the  
**Santa Barbara Local Agency  
Formation Commission**

November 2005

## 1. INTRODUCTION

This report regarding the Carpinteria Sanitary District was prepared by the Santa Barbara Local Agency Formation Commission (“LAFCO”) in accordance with Section 56430 of the California Government Code. It responds to the requirement that LAFCO conduct a Municipal Service Review (MSR) to study the delivery of municipal services and update spheres of influence.

The MSR evaluates services provided by the District and issues regarding its sphere of influence. MSR Guidelines prepared by the State Office of Planning and Research were referred to in developing information, performing analysis and organizing this study.

This report describes service delivery and related issues for LAFCO to consider and presents determinations as required by law. The decision to approve or disapprove any determinations or policies rests entirely with the Commission.

Written determinations regarding the MSR and sphere of influence update are provided for the Commission’s consideration. This report is an informational document and does not substitute for discretionary decisions that can only be made by the Commission.

This Report is subject to reconsideration and revision as directed by the LAFCO staff or by the Commission during the course of its deliberations.

## 2. MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW

### Description of District

The District was formed in 1928 and operates pursuant to the Sanitary District Act of 1923 (Health & Safety Code, Section 6400 et seq.).

Located in southern Santa Barbara County, on both sides of State Highway 1, it extends from Casitas Pass Road on the east to Toro Canyon on the west. It encompasses most of the City of Carpinteria and some nearby unincorporated land.

A five-member board of directors, elected at-large, governs the District. A General Manager is responsible for administrative functions. A District organizational chart is included.

The District's boundaries and sphere of influence are largely coterminous, though there are some areas that appear to be logical annexations. A map of the District and its sphere is included.

### District Services

The District collects, treats and disposes of wastewater. It services approximately 4,100 connections, which represent about 5,900 Equivalent Residential Units (EDUs).

### Other Governmental Agencies within the District

Local agencies that overlap the District include the Carpinteria Valley Water District, Carpinteria-Summerland Fire Protection District, City of Carpinteria, County Service Area 11 (Parks), County Service Area 32 (Law Enforcement), Santa Barbara Coastal Vector Control District and Summerland Sanitation District.

## 3. MSR DETERMINATIONS

This report addresses the MSR factors specified in LAFCO's governing statute.

### **Infrastructure Needs and Deficiencies**

The District's existing wastewater collection and treatment infrastructure is sufficient to accommodate current and known demands. Its 2002–2009 Capital Improvement Program projects \$6,220,000, much of which is programmed for pipeline rehabilitation, replacement or relocation.

## **Growth and Population Projections**

The District accepts the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments' population growth projections for its planning purposes for the Carpinteria area and based on these projections will have sufficient capacity to accommodate potential connections.

## **Financing Constraints and Opportunities**

The District receives service charges from its users, a portion of the general property tax and revenues from permit fees. It is reasonable to conclude these revenue sources are sufficient to fund its obligations for service including system improvements.

## **Cost-Avoidance Opportunities**

There are no obvious cost avoidance opportunities. The most significant costs are related treating and discharging wastewater effluent. Joint training with other local agencies reduces costs and enhances preparations for emergencies.

## **Opportunities for Rate Restructuring**

There was a rate study and service fee increase in 2002 based on the CIP. There are no obvious rate restructuring opportunities.

## **Opportunities for Shared Facilities**

The sewer collection and treatment facilities are designed for the service area and do not offer opportunities for shared facilities.

## **Government Structure Options**

LAFCO's enabling legislation indicates a multipurpose governmental agency, especially in urban areas, may be the best mechanism to account for community needs, financial resources and service priorities.

While the District has not identified any government structure options, it may be that a legal or functional consolidation with other Carpinteria based local agencies may result in greater overall economy or efficiency in providing services to the community.

## **Management Efficiencies**

The District exhibits the characteristics of a well-managed agency operating efficiently and serving its residents and customers effectively.

**Local Accountability and Governance**

The District is a relatively compact government, which enhances the ability of the public to participate in its activities. The Board of Directors is elected by and accountable to the voters who reside in the District. The District is developing an informational website and recently distributed a series of newsletters to all of its customers.

**4. SPHERE OF INFLUENCE REVIEW AND UPDATE**

Description of Current Sphere of Influence

The District’s boundaries and sphere of influence are largely coterminous. A map of the District and its sphere are included.

No Proposed Sphere Changes

In response to the MSR Request for Information, the District responded as follows:

Do you feel that your agency’s boundary is correct at this time? No

Are there areas your agency desires or plans to serve that are not now within is boundaries or its sphere of influence? Yes

The District is responding to requests for service from several communities along the beach that currently use on-site septic systems for disposal. The District is evaluating service to the Rincon Point, Sandyland Cove, Sand Point Road, Padaro Land and Beach Club Road areas.

The expansion of the District has left “islands,” including public schools, that are logical parts of the District.

The District’s position is that its sphere should be expanded to incorporate parcels that can reasonably be expected to require future sewer service.

Are there areas your agency currently serves that might be served more efficiently by another agency? No

Sphere of Influence Determinations

Inasmuch as no changes in the sphere of influence are proposed at this time it is not necessary for the Commission to adopt or approve any determinations.



## 5. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & REFERENCES

The Santa Barbara LAFCO staff prepared this Municipal Service Review. Responsibility for any errors or omissions rests with those who prepared the report.

The Carpinteria Sanitary District provided the basic information and documents upon which the evaluation is based. The District staff, notably General Manager Craig Murray was instrumental in providing data.

Mapping services were provided by JDL Mapping.

### Available Documentation

The “Request for Information for Municipal Service Reviews” submitted by the District and the supporting documents referred to therein are available in the LAFCO office.

## 6. RECOMMENDATIONS

In consideration of information gathered and evaluated during the Municipal Service Review it is recommended the Commission affirm the current Sphere of Influence and that consideration for expansion not be considered until an application is received.

It is further recommended that the Commission direct the staff to work with the District and local school district to annex school sites that represent “islands” within the District.

It is further recommended that the Commission direct the staff to work with the District and other local agencies in the area to identify a sphere of influence expansion to include parcels within the vicinity that can reasonably be expected to require sanitary sewer service in the near future.

**CARPINTERIA-  
SUMMERLAND FIRE  
PROTECTION DISTRICT**

**MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW AND  
SPHERE OF INFLUENCE UPDATE**

Report to the  
**Santa Barbara Local Agency  
Formation Commission**

November 2005

## 1. INTRODUCTION

This report regarding the Carpinteria-Summerland Fire Protection District was prepared by the Santa Barbara Local Agency Formation Commission (“LAFCO”) in accordance with Section 56430 of the California Government Code. It responds to the requirement that LAFCO conduct a Municipal Service Review (MSR) to study the delivery of municipal services and update spheres of influence.

The MSR evaluates services provided by the District and issues regarding its sphere of influence. MSR Guidelines prepared by the State Office of Planning and Research were referred to in developing information, performing analysis and organizing this study.

This report describes service delivery and related issues for LAFCO to consider and presents determinations as required by law. The decision to approve or disapprove any determinations or policies rests entirely with the Commission.

Written determinations regarding the MSR and sphere of influence update are provided for the Commission’s consideration. This report is an informational document and does not substitute for discretionary decisions that can only be made by the Commission.

This Report is subject to reconsideration and revision as directed by the LAFCO staff or by the Commission during the course of its deliberations.

## 2 . MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW

### Description of District

The District was formed in May 1934 and operates pursuant to the Fire Protection District Law on 1987 (Health and Safety Code, Section 13800 et seq.).

The District is located in southern Santa Barbara County and extends from the Ventura County boundary on the east to the Montecito Fire Protection District on the west. The district extends for three miles into the Pacific Ocean and from the coastline goes north to encompass the entire coastal plain and much of the Los Padres National Forest. The City of Carpinteria is included within the District.

The District is governed by a five member board of directors, elected at-large. The Fire Chief is responsible for administration. A District organizational chart is included.

The District's boundaries and sphere of influence are coterminous.

### District Services

The District provides fire prevention and suppression, emergency medical response and advanced life support, urban search and rescue, water rescue, building permits and inspections and disaster and multi Hazard Planning.

### Other Governmental Agencies within the District

The District overlaps the Carpinteria Sanitary District, Carpinteria Valley Water District, City of Carpinteria, County Service Areas 11 (Parks) and 32 (Law Enforcement), Montecito Water District, Santa Barbara Coastal Vector Control District and Summerland Sanitary District.

## 3 . MSR DETERMINATIONS

This report addresses the MSR factors specified in LAFCO's governing statute.

### **Infrastructure Needs and Deficiencies**

The District provides fire suppression services from two fire stations, one in Carpinteria and the other in Summerland. It reports it is outgrowing these facilities and that remodeling these stations and adding a third station are greatly needed.

For the present, it appears the District can accommodate service demands from these facilities, with mutual and automatic aid agreements in place with neighboring fire service agencies.

## **Growth and Population Projections**

The District provides services as population growth occurs. Its services do not affect the rate or location of development. It engaged UCSB to develop an economic outlook project specifically to anticipate population change within the District.

## **Financing Constraints and Opportunities**

The District is financed almost entirely by a portion of the property taxes levied within its borders, with some fees charged to mitigate the impacts of new development.

Current revenue sources may avoid long-term, unfunded District obligations, provided the State does not continue to erode local government's property tax receipts.

## **Cost-Avoidance Opportunities**

The District participates in mutual aid and response agreements with other emergency response agencies to obtain enhanced levels of service and coverage. Moreover it has taken a number of steps to reduce costs including contracting dispatch services to the County Sheriff, contracting radio repair to the County General Services Department, vehicle repair and fuel purchases and other types of cooperative activities.

## **Opportunities for Rate Restructuring**

There are no obvious opportunities for rate restructuring in the operations of the District.

## **Opportunities for Shared Facilities**

There may be possible savings by sharing administrative and field staff and/or facilities and equipment. See following response to Government Structure Options.

## **Government Structure Options**

While no proposals have been submitted to consolidate the District with the adjacent Montecito Fire Protection District or County Fire Protection District, fiscal and service efficiencies and benefits to the public may result from a reorganization of fire protection agencies in southern Santa Barbara County. Other possible options are contracting with the California Department of Forestry or the Ventura County Fire Protection District.

Another option might be the formation of a Southern Santa Barbara County Joint Powers Fire Authority.

With regard to its boundaries, the District notes the "Rincon residential area" is divided between the District and the Ventura County Fire Protection District, the dividing line being the County boundary at Rincon Creek.

The closest Ventura County fire facility, Station No. 25, is significantly farther from this residence at Rincon Point than Fire Station No.1 in Carpinteria, which routinely arrives before Ventura County response vehicles.

This raises the possibility of adjusting Fire Protection District boundaries to reflect more logical service and response areas.

### **Management Efficiencies**

The District, given its resources, exhibits the characteristics of a well-managed agency operating efficiently and serving its residents and customers effectively.

### **Local Accountability and Governance**

The District Board of Directors is elected by and accountable to the voters who reside in the District. The District maintains a website and publishes a weekly column in the local newspaper with highlights of District activities and responses.

## **4 . SPHERE OF INFLUENCE REVIEW AND UPDATE**

### Description of Current Sphere of Influence

The District's boundaries and sphere of influence are coterminous.

### No Proposed Sphere Changes

There are no known sphere change proposals at this time.

### Sphere of Influence Determinations

Inasmuch as no changes in the sphere of influence are proposed at this time it is not necessary for the Commission to adopt or approve any determinations.

## **5 . ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & REFERENCES**

The Santa Barbara LAFCO staff prepared this Municipal Service Review. Responsibility for any errors or omissions rests with those who prepared the report.

The Carpinteria-Summerland Fire Protection District provided the basic information and documents upon which the evaluation is based. The District staff, notably Fire Chief Tom Martinez, was instrumental in providing data.

Mapping services were provided by JDL Mapping.

Available Documentation

The “Request for Information for Municipal Service Reviews” submitted by the District and supporting documents referred to therein are available in the LAFCO office.

**6 . R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S**

In consideration of information gathered and evaluated during the Municipal Service Review it is recommended the Commission affirm the current Sphere of Influence and that it not be expanded or revised at this time.

It is further recommended that the Commission direct the staff to work with the District to consider a sphere of influence expansion and boundary adjustment with the Ventura County Fire Protection District to include the entire Rincon Point area within the District.

# **CARPINTERIA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT**

## **MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW AND SPHERE OF INFLUENCE UPDATE**

Report to the  
**Santa Barbara Local Agency  
Formation Commission**

November 2005



## 1. INTRODUCTION

This report regarding the Carpinteria Valley Water District was prepared by the Santa Barbara Local Agency Formation Commission (“LAFCO”) in accordance with Section 56430 of the California Government Code. It responds to the requirement that LAFCO conduct a Municipal Service Review (MSR) to study the delivery of municipal services and update spheres of influence.

The MSR evaluates services provided by the District and issues regarding its sphere of influence. MSR Guidelines prepared by the State Office of Planning and Research were referred to in developing information, performing analysis and organizing this study.

This report describes service delivery and related issues for LAFCO to consider and presents determinations as required by law. The decision to approve or disapprove any determinations or policies rests entirely with the Commission.

Written determinations regarding the MSR and sphere of influence update are provided for the Commission’s consideration. This report is an informational document and does not substitute for discretionary decisions that can only be made by the Commission.

This Report is subject to reconsideration and revision as directed by the LAFCO staff or by the Commission during the course of its deliberations.

## 2 . MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW

### Description of District

The District was formed in 1941 and operates pursuant to the County Water District Law (Water Code, Section 30000 et seq.).

It is located in southern Santa Barbara County from Ventura County on the east to the vicinity of Toro Canyon Road on the west. It extends inland from the ocean and in some areas overlaps the Los Padres National Forest.

The District is governed by a five-member board of directors, elected at-large. A General Manager is responsible for administrative functions. A District organizational chart is included.

The District's boundaries and sphere of influence are largely coterminous. A map of the District and its sphere is included.

### District Services

The District provides retail water delivery and conservation. It services approximately 4,160 water connections, which represent about 6,787 equivalent dwelling units. .

### Other Governmental Agencies within the District

Local agencies that overlap the District include the Carpinteria Sanitary District, Carpinteria-Summerland Fire Protection District, City of Carpinteria, County Service Area 11 (Parks), County Service Area 32 (Law Enforcement) and Santa Barbara Coastal Vector Control District.

## 3 . MSR DETERMINATIONS

This report addresses the MSR factors specified in LAFCO's governing statute.

### **Infrastructure Needs and Deficiencies**

The District's Strategic and Capital Facilities Plan (February 1999) identifies facilities planned by the District to serve water in adequate quantity and quality to its customers, including agricultural, residential and commercial/ industrial users.

The District has adopted an Urban Water Management Plan and Water Shortage Contingency Plan (April 2004).

From the information provided in the District's adopted plans, the District is preparing to accommodate current and projected service demands from its three sources of water: Cachuma Project, State Water Project and groundwater.

### **Growth and Population Projections**

The District accepts the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments' population growth projections for its planning purposes and anticipates having the capacity to provide water to projected uses.

### **Financing Constraints and Opportunities**

The District imposes service charges. It is reasonable to conclude these revenue sources are sufficient to fund its obligations for service including system improvements.

### **Cost-Avoidance Opportunities**

There are no obvious cost avoidance opportunities in water operations.

### **Opportunities for Rate Restructuring**

There are no obvious opportunities for rate restructuring, although the adoption of each rate ordinance amendment allows this subject to be studied.

### **Opportunities for Shared Facilities**

There are no obvious opportunities for shared facilities in the operations of the District. The District cooperates with other water agencies in building and operating the facilities that provide much of the District's water supply, specifically the Central Coast Water Authority for State Water Project and the Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board for the Bradbury Dam, Tecolote Tunnel and South Coast Conduit.

### **Government Structure Options**

The District reports that three joint powers authorities provide services related to the Cachuma Project and suggests there could be a benefit to evaluate a reorganization or consolidation of these organizations to reduce their collective overhead burden.

Consolidation or merger with other Carpinteria area local agencies may result in shared costs and promote greater efficiency in the use of personnel and equipment.

### **Management Efficiencies**

The District exhibits the characteristics of a well-managed agency operating efficiently and serving its residents and customers effectively.

## Local Accountability and Governance

The District is a relatively compact government, which enhances the ability of the public to participate in its activities. The Board of Directors is elected by and accountable to the voters who reside in the District. On occasion the District video tapes its Board meetings for delayed broadcast, publishes ads in the newspaper and sends messages with its bills.

## 4. SPHERE OF INFLUENCE REVIEW AND UPDATE

### Description of Current Sphere of Influence

The District's boundaries and sphere of influence are largely coterminous.

### No Proposed Sphere Changes

In response to the MSR Request for Information, the District responded as follows:

Do you feel that your agency's boundary is correct at this time? Yes.

Except for a portion of the Rincon coastline in Ventura County that should perhaps be included in the District since it is providing water to the area through an agreement with the Casitas Municipal Water District.

Are there areas your agency desires or plans to serve that are not now within its boundaries or its sphere of influence? Yes

The Rancho Anacapa and Rancho Esperanza properties (APN 155-220-007 and -008)

Are there areas your agency currently serves that might be served more efficiently by another agency? No

### Sphere of Influence Determinations

Inasmuch as no changes in the sphere of influence are proposed at this time it is not necessary for the Commission to adopt or approve any determinations.

## 5. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & REFERENCES

The Santa Barbara LAFCO staff prepared this Municipal Service Review. Responsibility for any errors or omissions rests with those who prepared the report.

The Carpinteria Valley Water District provided the basic information and documents upon which the evaluation is based. The District staff, notably Business Manager Norma Rosales was instrumental in providing data.

Mapping services were provided by JDL Mapping.

Available Documentation

The “Request for Information for Municipal Service Reviews” submitted by the District and the supporting documents referred to therein are available in the LAFCO office.

## 6 . R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S

In consideration of information gathered and evaluated during the Municipal Service Review it is recommended the Commission affirm the current Sphere of Influence and that it not be expanded or revised at this time.

It is further recommended that the Commission direct the staff to work with the District to consider a sphere of influence expansion and boundary adjustment to include the Rincon Point area within the District, and to consider other boundary modifications desired by the District.

# **CITY OF CARPINTERIA**

## **MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW AND SPHERE OF INFLUENCE UPDATE**

Report to the  
**Santa Barbara Local Agency  
Formation Commission**

November 2005

## 1. INTRODUCTION

This report regarding the City of Carpinteria was prepared by the Santa Barbara Local Agency Formation Commission (“LAFCO”) in accordance with Section 56430 of the California Government Code. It responds to the requirement that LAFCO conduct a Municipal Service Review (MSR) to study the delivery of municipal services and update spheres of influence.

The MSR evaluates services provided by the City and issues regarding its sphere of influence. MSR Guidelines prepared by the State Office of Planning and Research were referred to in developing information, performing analysis and organizing this study.

This report describes service delivery and related issues for LAFCO to consider and presents determinations as required by law. The decision to approve or disapprove any determinations or policies rests entirely with the Commission.

Written determinations regarding the MSR and sphere of influence update are provided for the Commission’s consideration. This report is an informational document and does not substitute for discretionary decisions that can only be made by the Commission.

This Report is subject to reconsideration and revision as directed by the LAFCO staff or by the Commission during the course of its deliberations.

## 2. MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW

### Description of City

The City was incorporated September 28, 1965 and is one of eight cities in Santa Barbara County. It operates pursuant to the general laws of the State of California (Government Code, Section 34000 et seq.).

It is governed by a five-member city council all of whom are elected at large. It has a city manager form of government. See the organization chart.

The City is located in southern Santa Barbara County on both sides of Highway 101. It extends from Casitas Pass Road near the Ventura County border on the east to just past Cravens Lane on the west. It extends from the ocean to, in some places, Foothill Road.

The City boundaries and sphere of influence are largely coterminous with a few small areas within the sphere that have not been annexed. The city population is approximately 14,350 based on information from the State Department of Finance. A map of the City and its sphere is included in this report.

### City Services

The City provides a variety of municipal services, which include:

- ❑ Law enforcement including traffic law enforcement
- ❑ Parks, recreation programs and open space
- ❑ Land use planning and regulation of buildings
- ❑ Library services
- ❑ Refuse collection, recycling and disposal
- ❑ Street maintenance
- ❑ Street lighting
- ❑ Drainage and storm water disposal

The Request for Information for Municipal Service Reviews includes significant detail about the services provided by the City including a discussion of services provided in concert with other public agencies. A copy is available in the LAFCO office.

The City participates in a joint powers authority for pooled liability protection and worker's compensation insurance.

### Other Governmental Agencies within the City

Local agencies that overlap the City include the Carpinteria Sanitary District, Carpinteria Valley Water District, Carpinteria-Summerland Fire Protection District and Santa Barbara Coastal Vector Control District.



### 3. MSR DETERMINATIONS

This report addresses the MSR factors specified in LAFCO's governing statute.

#### **Infrastructure Needs and Deficiencies**

The City provides and maintains public facilities to extend services to its residents and property owners, including public rights-of-way, drainage facilities and public parks.

The City's 2004 Capital Improvement Plan identifies numerous needs and infrastructure improvements the City is planning to construct provide sufficient funding is available.

#### **Growth and Population Projections**

The City accepts the Santa Barbara County Association of Government's growth projections for use in Municipal Service Reviews. It also relies on its adopted General Plan/Local Coastal Plan (April 2003) to assess services needs, growth projections and for plans to maintain adequate municipal service levels.

#### **Financing Constraints and Opportunities**

The City is subject to the funding regulations that apply to municipalities throughout the State and is therefore subject to broad changes in revenue allocation based on the State budget and its relationship to local funding sources.

It is reasonable to conclude that by investing in its CIP, calculating impact fees and mitigations for new projects and careful stewardship of resources the City will be able to avoid long-term, unfunded financial obligations for improvements or maintenance.

#### **Cost-Avoidance Opportunities**

There are no obvious cost avoidance opportunities.

#### **Opportunities for Rate Restructuring**

There are no obvious opportunities for rate restructuring in City operations.

#### **Opportunities for Shared Facilities**

There are no obvious opportunities for shared facilities other than a consolidation or reorganization with other local agencies serving the Carpinteria Valley.

#### **Government Structure Options**

There are no obvious opportunities for governmental structure options other than a reorganization with other local agencies serving the Carpinteria Valley.

**Management Efficiencies**

The City exhibits the characteristics of a well-managed agency operating efficiently and serving its residents and customers effectively.

**Local Accountability and Governance**

The City is a relatively compact government, which enhances the ability of the public to participate in its activities. The Mayor and City Council are elected by and accountable to the voters who reside in the City.

City Council and Planning Commission meetings are broadcast live and in replay on television in Carpinteria. There is a Website with information about City activities.

**4. SPHERE OF INFLUENCE REVIEW AND UPDATE**

Description of Current Sphere of Influence

The City boundaries and sphere of influence are largely coterminous with some small areas in the sphere that have not been annexed.

Potential Sphere Changes

In response to the MSR Request for Information, the City responded as follows:

- Do you feel that your agency’s boundary is correct at this time? Yes
- Are there areas your agency desires or plans to serve that are not now within is boundaries or its sphere of influence? No
- Are there areas your agency currently serves that might be served more efficiently by another agency No

Sphere of Influence Determinations

Inasmuch as no changes in the sphere of influence are proposed at this time it is not necessary for the Commission to adopt or approve any determinations.

**5. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & REFERENCES**

The Santa Barbara LAFCO staff prepared this Municipal Service Review. Responsibility for any errors or omissions rests with those who prepared the report.

The City of Carpinteria provided information and documents upon which the evaluation is based. The City staff, notably Community Development Director Jacqueline Campbell were instrumental in providing data.

Mapping services were provided by JDL Mapping.

Available Documentation

The “Request for Information for Municipal Service Reviews” submitted by the City and the supporting documents referred to therein are available in the LAFCO office.

## 6. RECOMMENDATIONS

In consideration of information gathered and evaluated during the Municipal Service Review it is recommended the Commission affirm the current Sphere of Influence.

# **CITY OF SANTA BARBARA**

## **MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW AND SPHERE OF INFLUENCE UPDATE**

Report to the  
**Santa Barbara Local Agency  
Formation Commission**

November 2005

## 1. INTRODUCTION

This report regarding the City of Santa Barbara was prepared by the Santa Barbara Local Agency Formation Commission (“LAFCO”) in accordance with Section 56430 of the California Government Code. It responds to the requirement that LAFCO conduct a Municipal Service Review (MSR) to study the delivery of municipal services and update spheres of influence.

The MSR evaluates services provided by the City and issues regarding its sphere of influence. MSR Guidelines prepared by the State Office of Planning and Research were referred to in developing information, performing analysis and organizing this study.

This report describes service delivery and related issues for LAFCO to consider and presents determinations as required by law. The decision to approve or disapprove any determinations or policies rests entirely with the Commission.

Written determinations regarding the MSR and sphere of influence update are provided for the Commission’s consideration. This report is an informational document and does not substitute for discretionary decisions that can only be made by the Commission.

This Report is subject to reconsideration and revision as directed by the LAFCO staff or by the Commission during the course of its deliberations.

## 2. MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW

### Description of City

The City was incorporated in 1850 and is one of eight cities in Santa Barbara County. The current Charter was adopted in 1967. It operates pursuant to the laws of the State of California (Government Code, Section 34000 et seq.).

It is governed by a seven-member city council, which includes a directly-elected mayor, all of whom are elected at large. It has a city manager form of government and is a “full service” city, providing most essential city services. See the organization chart.

The City is located in southern Santa Barbara County, situated between the Pacific Ocean and coastal mountains. The main part of the City extends from Montecito on the east to Highway 154 and Hope Ranch on the west. A portion, contiguous only by means of an annexation through the ocean, includes the Santa Barbara Municipal Airport and adjacent property in the Goleta Valley, about four miles west of the rest of the City.

The City’s sphere is larger than its boundaries, due to some pockets and islands that have not been annexed. These include the Mission Canyon and Las Positas areas. The City population is approximately 90,500 according the State Finance Department. A map of the City and its sphere is included in this report.

### City Services

The City provides a broad variety of municipal services, which include:

- ❑ Law enforcement including traffic law enforcement
- ❑ Fire prevention and suppression
- ❑ Emergency medical response and search and rescue
- ❑ Parks, recreation programs and golf courses
- ❑ Open space maintenance
- ❑ Land use planning and regulation of buildings
- ❑ Library services
- ❑ General aviation airport
- ❑ Marina and small boat harbor
- ❑ Retail and wholesale water supply, including water conservation
- ❑ Wastewater collection, treatment and disposal
- ❑ Refuse collection, recycling and disposal
- ❑ Street maintenance including bridges and culverts
- ❑ Street lighting
- ❑ Drainage and storm water disposal

The Request for Information for Municipal Service Reviews includes significant detail about the services provided by the City including a discussion of services provided in concert with other public agencies. A copy is available in the LAFCO office.

The City participates in a number of inter-agency contracts, joint powers authorities and automatic and mutual aid agreements with other public agencies that are also detailed in the Request for Information.

The City tracks services provided in various ways, depending on the type of service. The City population of approximately 93,000 residents rises to 200,000 or more on weekends.

There are 25,700 water accounts and 23,700 wastewater accounts. In addition there are 1,340 out-of-city water and 200 out-of-city wastewater accounts. The population of the library service area is approximately 228,140. The passenger count at the airport in 2004 was 828,000.

The City is the major provider of active and passive recreation services for residents of the City and nearby south coast communities as well as visitors to the area.

#### Other Governmental Agencies within the City

Local agencies that overlap the City include the Goleta Sanitary District, Goleta Water District, Santa Barbara Coastal Vector Control District and Santa Barbara Metropolitan Transit District.

### 3. MSR DETERMINATIONS

This report addresses the MSR factors specified in LAFCO's governing statute.

#### **Infrastructure Needs and Deficiencies**

The City provides and maintains a variety of facilities to extend public services to its residents, property owners and visitors. The City's Capital Plan identifies projects for construction through the year 2011 to improve and maintain the City's public services, projects which total \$317,691,000.

By identifying these current and future needs the City is able to plan for sufficient financing and sequencing of construction to meet its probable needs.

#### **Growth and Population Projections**

The City accepts the Santa Barbara County Association of Government's growth projections for the City and relies on that and other factors in forecasting passenger growth in the City's Aviation Facilities Plan.

#### **Financing Constraints and Opportunities**

The City's enterprise funds, including water, wastewater, airport, waterfront, parking and golf rely primarily on user fees and charges. Rates are established based upon costs of service and are intended to recover all costs, including capital and depreciation.

The City General Fund relies primarily on various taxes such as property, sales, transient occupancy and utility for 64% of total revenue. Fees and services charges contribute another 18% of revenues. Rarely do fees and charges recover the full costs associated with some services such as parks and recreation, planning, fire or police protection.

The City is subject to the funding regulations applicable to municipalities throughout the State and is therefore subject to broad changes in revenue allocation based on the State budget and its relationship to local funding sources.

### **Cost-Avoidance Opportunities**

There are no obvious cost avoidance opportunities that have not been implemented by the City through internal reviews, contracts with other agencies, mutual aid agreements and joint powers authorities to assist in service economy and mitigate the impacts of emergencies by avoiding the costs to duplicate facilities and equipment.

### **Opportunities for Rate Restructuring**

The opportunity for restructuring rates occurs during annual budget processes and the adoption of each rate ordinance.

### **Opportunities for Shared Facilities**

Significant sharing is occurring through arrangements for providing community services, such as library staffing, cooperatively with other local agencies.

### **Government Structure Options**

There are no obvious opportunities for governmental structure options.

### **Management Efficiencies**

The City exhibits the characteristics of a well-managed agency operating efficiently and serving its residents and customers effectively. A significant amount of effort is invested in planning how best to provide services to City residents and property owners.

### **Local Accountability and Governance**

The City is a relatively compact government, which enhances the ability of the public to participate in its activities. The Mayor and City Council are elected by and accountable to the voters who reside in the City.

The City maintains many outreach programs. City Council meetings and others such as the Airport, Police, Planning and Parks Commissions are televised. There is a City website with information about contacts and activities, flyers are distributed with City



utility bills and the City has a school education program regarding the importance of conservation and recycling.

#### 4. SPHERE OF INFLUENCE REVIEW AND UPDATE

##### Description of Current Sphere of Influence

The City's sphere is larger than its boundaries, due to some pockets and islands that have not been annexed. These include the Mission Canyon and Las Positas areas. A map of the City and its sphere is included in this report.

In the past LAFCO had adopted a much larger sphere for the City. Based on the concept of having one city the sphere included Montecito and the Goleta Valley. There was no commitment by the City, County or the communities to annex those areas. Over time, as proposals were filed with LAFCO to incorporate Montecito and Goleta, the City sphere was "pulled back" to its current position.

##### Potential Sphere Changes

In response to the MSR Request for Information, the City responded as follows:

Do you feel that your agency's boundary is correct at this time? Yes

Are there areas your agency desires or plans to serve that are not now within its boundaries or its sphere of influence? Yes

*Areas and islands within the City's existing Sphere of Influence will be annexed when development is proposed.*

##### Sphere of Influence Determinations

Inasmuch as no changes in the sphere of influence have been officially proposed at this time it is not necessary for the Commission to adopt or approve determinations to modify the sphere. At such time in the future that a sphere amendment is proposed it would be appropriate to consider the information in this MSR in making any determinations

#### 5. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & REFERENCES

The Santa Barbara LAFCO staff prepared this Municipal Service Review. Responsibility for any errors or omissions rests with those who prepared the report.

The City of Santa Barbara did an excellent job in providing information and documents upon which the evaluation is based. The City staff, Community Development Director Paul Casey and Finance Director Bob Pierson were instrumental in providing data but it is clear from the quality of the submittal that the entire City organization was involved.

Mapping services were provided by JDL Mapping.

Available Documentation

The “Request for Information for Municipal Service Reviews” submitted by the City and the supporting documents referred to therein are available in the LAFCO office.

## 6. RECOMMENDATIONS

In consideration of information gathered and evaluated during the Municipal Service Review it is recommended the Commission affirm the current Sphere of Influence and that consideration of expansion or revision be considered when an application from the City is received.

**COUNTY SERVICE  
AREA NO. 11  
(CARPINTERIA VALLEY)**

**MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW AND  
SPHERE OF INFLUENCE UPDATE**

Report to the  
**Santa Barbara Local Agency  
Formation Commission**

November 2005

## 1. INTRODUCTION

This report regarding County Service Area No. 11 (Carpinteria/Summerland) was prepared by the Santa Barbara Local Agency Formation Commission (“LAFCO”) in accordance with Section 56430 of the California Government Code. It responds to the requirement that LAFCO conduct a Municipal Service Review (MSR) to study the delivery of municipal services and update spheres of influence.

The MSR evaluates services provided by the district and issues regarding its sphere of influence. MSR Guidelines prepared by the State Office of Planning and Research were referred to in developing information, performing analysis and organizing this study.

This report describes service delivery and related issues for LAFCO to consider and presents determinations as required by law. The decision to approve or disapprove any determinations or policies rests entirely with the Commission.

Written determinations regarding the MSR and sphere of influence update are provided for the Commission’s consideration. This report is an informational document and does not substitute for discretionary decisions that can only be made by the Commission.

This Report is subject to reconsideration and revision as directed by the LAFCO staff or by the Commission during the course of its deliberations.

## 2. MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW

### Description of District

The district was formed in 1976 and operates pursuant to the County Service Area Law (Government Code, Section 25210 et seq.).

The district is governed by the Board of Supervisors and administered by the County Parks Department.

The district is located in southern Santa Barbara County and includes portions of the Carpinteria Valley. The City of Carpinteria and Summerland are within the district.

The District boundaries and sphere of influence are coterminous. A map of the District and its sphere is included.

### District Services

County Service Area No. 11 provides street lighting, maintenance of recreation facilities and services, open space and parkway maintenance and street tree planting. The County has proposed that the district also provide road maintenance services.

### Other Governmental Agencies within the District

Local agencies that overlap the district include the Carpinteria Sanitary District, Carpinteria-Summerland Fire Protection District, City of Carpinteria, County Service Area 32 (Law Enforcement) and Santa Barbara Coastal Vector Control District.

## 3. MSR DETERMINATIONS

This report addresses the MSR factors specified in LAFCO's governing statute.

### **Infrastructure Needs and Deficiencies**

The district maintains street lights, recreation lands and open space.

### **Growth and Population Projections**

The district maintains street lighting and recreational land. It does not influence or affect growth and population projections but instead provides services when land use changes are approved.

### **Financing Constraints and Opportunities**

The district receives a portion of general property tax within the district and related revenues from parcels within the District. These sources are sufficient to finance district services.

### **Cost-Avoidance Opportunities**

There are no obvious cost avoidance opportunities.

### **Opportunities for Rate Restructuring**

There are no obvious opportunities for rate restructuring in the operations of the district other than to insure charges are sufficient to offset the costs of providing services.

### **Opportunities for Shared Facilities**

There are no obvious opportunities for shared facilities in the operations of the district.

### **Government Structure Options**

Although there are no obvious opportunities for structural changes in the operation of the district, the City of Carpinteria could provide streetlighting in lieu of the district within the City boundaries.

### **Management Efficiencies**

The district is managed by the County Public Works and Parks Department by utilizing a small portion of the time of current employees.

### **Local Accountability and Governance**

The district is governed by the Board of Supervisors, which is elected by districts each of which include approximately 20% of the total County population.

## **4. SPHERE OF INFLUENCE REVIEW AND UPDATE**

### Description of Current Sphere of Influence

The district's boundaries and sphere of influence are coterminous.

### Sphere of Influence Determinations

Inasmuch as no changes in the sphere of influence are proposed at this time it is not necessary for the Commission to adopt or approve any determinations.

## **5. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & REFERENCES**

### Available Documentation

The "Request for Information for Municipal Service Reviews" submitted by the district and the supporting documents referred to therein are available in the LAFCO office.

The Santa Barbara LAFCO staff prepared this Municipal Service Review. Responsibility for any errors or omissions rests with those who prepared the report.

District Engineer/Manager Martin Wilder the County Public Works Department provided the basic information and documents upon which the evaluation is based.

Mapping services were provided by JDL Mapping.

## 6. RECOMMENDATIONS

In consideration of information gathered and evaluated during the Municipal Service Review it is recommended the Commission affirm the current Sphere of Influence and that it not be expanded or revised at this time.

**COUNTY SERVICE  
AREA NO. 12  
(MISSION CANYON SEWERS)**

**MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW AND  
SPHERE OF INFLUENCE UPDATE**

Report to the  
**Santa Barbara Local Agency  
Formation Commission**

November 2005



## 1. INTRODUCTION

This report regarding County Service Area No. 12 (Mission Canyon Sewers) was prepared by the Santa Barbara Local Agency Formation Commission (“LAFCO”) in accordance with Section 56430 of the California Government Code. It responds to the requirement that LAFCO conduct a Municipal Service Review (MSR) to study the delivery of municipal services and update spheres of influence.

The MSR evaluates services provided by the district and issues regarding its sphere of influence. MSR Guidelines prepared by the State Office of Planning and Research were referred to in developing information, performing analysis and organizing this study.

This report describes service delivery and related issues for LAFCO to consider and presents determinations as required by law. The decision to approve or disapprove any determinations or policies rests entirely with the Commission.

Written determinations regarding the MSR and sphere of influence update are provided for the Commission’s consideration. This report is an informational document and does not substitute for discretionary decisions that can only be made by the Commission.

This Report is subject to reconsideration and revision as directed by the LAFCO staff or by the Commission during the course of its deliberations.

## 2. MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW

### Description of District

The district was formed in 1984 and operates pursuant to the County Service Area Law (Government Code, Section 25210 et seq.).

The district is governed by the Board of Supervisors and administered by the County Parks Department.

The district's boundaries and sphere of influence are coterminous. It is located in southern Santa Barbara County and is bordered on three sides by the City of Santa Barbara and on the fourth by the Los Padres National Forest.

### District Services

The district collects sewage that is treated by the City of Santa Barbara. It also monitors the performance of on-site septic disposal facilities.

### Other Governmental Agencies within the District

Local agencies that overlap the District are the Mission Canyon Lighting District, County Service Area 32 (Law Enforcement), Santa Barbara County Fire Protection District and Santa Barbara Coastal Vector Control District.

## 3. MSR DETERMINATIONS

This report addresses the MSR factors specified in LAFCO's governing statute.

### **Infrastructure Needs and Deficiencies**

The district owns the sewer collection system. Routine maintenance is performed by the City of Santa Barbara, which treats and disposes of the wastewater pursuant to a joint powers agreement executed in 1984. The County performs any needed capital repairs.

There are approximately 799 sewer connections and 254 septic systems within the district. The collection, treatment and disposal system has capacity to connect other homes in Mission Canyon that are presently on individual septic systems.

There are no capital improvements planned or programmed for the district.

### **Growth and Population Projections**

The area is largely built out already. The district is not a major factor in whether additional development will occur.

## **Financing Constraints and Opportunities**

District revenues are sewer service charges, septic maintenance charges and connection fees from parcels within the District. These sources are sufficient to fund the operations of the District including payments to the City of Santa Barbara.

## **Cost-Avoidance Opportunities**

There are no obvious cost avoidance opportunities other than having the entire system transferred to the City of Santa Barbara if and when Mission Canyon is annexed.

## **Opportunities for Rate Restructuring**

There are no obvious opportunities for rate restructuring in the operations of the district since rates are calculated to recover operational costs.

## **Opportunities for Shared Facilities**

The district already shares treatment and disposal facilities by a JPA with the City. There do not appear to be any other opportunities for shared facilities.

## **Government Structure Options**

There are no obvious opportunities for structural changes in the operation of the district, other than the annexation of the area to the City of Santa Barbara and the conversion to a subsidiary district governed by the City.

## **Management Efficiencies**

The District is managed utilizing a small portion of the time of County Public Works Department staff and by contracting with the City whose staff is much closer.

## **Local Accountability and Governance**

The district is governed by the Board of Supervisors, which is elected by districts each of which include approximately 20% of the total County population.

## **4. SPHERE OF INFLUENCE REVIEW AND UPDATE**

### Description of Current Sphere of Influence

The district's boundaries and sphere of influence are coterminous.

### Sphere of Influence Determinations

Inasmuch as no changes in the sphere of influence are proposed at this time it is not necessary for the Commission to adopt or approve any determinations.

## 5. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & REFERENCES

### Available Documentation

The “Request for Information for Municipal Service Reviews” submitted by the District and the supporting documents referred to therein are available in the LAFCO office.

The Santa Barbara LAFCO staff prepared this Municipal Service Review. Responsibility for any errors or omissions rests with those who prepared the report.

District Engineer/Manager Martin Wilder the County Public Works Department provided the basic information and documents upon which the evaluation is based.

Mapping services were provided by JDL Mapping.

## 6. RECOMMENDATIONS

In consideration of information gathered and evaluated during the Municipal Service Review it is recommended the Commission affirm the current Sphere of Influence and that it not be expanded or revised at this time.

**COUNTY SERVICE AREA  
NO. 32 (LAW ENFORCEMENT)**

**MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW AND  
SPHERE OF INFLUENCE UPDATE**

Report to the  
**Santa Barbara Local Agency  
Formation Commission**

November 2005

## 1. INTRODUCTION

This report regarding County Service Area No. 32 (Law Enforcement) was prepared by the Santa Barbara Local Agency Formation Commission (“LAFCO”) in accordance with Section 56430 of the California Government Code. It responds to the requirement that LAFCO conduct a Municipal Service Review (MSR) to study the delivery of municipal services and update spheres of influence.

The MSR evaluates services provided by the district and issues regarding its sphere of influence. MSR Guidelines prepared by the State Office of Planning and Research were referred to in developing information, performing analysis and organizing this study.

This report describes service delivery and related issues for LAFCO to consider and presents determinations as required by law. The decision to approve or disapprove any determinations or policies rests entirely with the Commission.

Written determinations regarding the MSR and sphere of influence update are provided for the Commission’s consideration. This report is an informational document and does not substitute for discretionary decisions that can only be made by the Commission.

This Report is subject to reconsideration and revision as directed by the LAFCO staff or by the Commission during the course of its deliberations.

## 2. MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW

### Description of District

The district was formed in 1979 and operates pursuant to the County Service Area Law (Government Code, Section 25210 et seq.).

The district includes the entire unincorporated area and excludes all cities. It is governed by the Board of Supervisors and administered by the County Sheriff.

The district's boundaries and sphere of influence are coterminous. As land is annexed to a city it is detached from the district.

### District Services

The district provides an accounting mechanism to help fund law enforcement services in the unincorporated area. The District has no separate staff and functions as a source of revenue for the Sheriff's office.

### Other Governmental Agencies within the District

Local agencies that overlap the District area include the Carpinteria Sanitary District, Carpinteria-Summerland Fire Protection District, Carpinteria Water District, County Service Area 11 (Carpinteria Valley), County Service Area 12 (Mission Canyon), County Service Area 32 (Law Enforcement), Mission Canyon Lighting District, Montecito Fire Protection District, Montecito Sanitary District, Montecito Water District, Santa Barbara Coastal Vector Control District and Summerland Sanitary District.

## 3. MSR DETERMINATIONS

This report addresses the MSR factors specified in LAFCO's governing statute.

### **Infrastructure Needs and Deficiencies**

This is not a pertinent issue to this agency, which is a funding source for law enforcement services in the unincorporated area. There is no related infrastructure other than law enforcement vehicles and equipment.

### **Growth and Population Projections**

The district generates revenues that increase as population growth and economic activity occur. It does not affect the rate or location of population development.

### **Financing Constraints and Opportunities**

The district receives sales and other unincorporated area revenues generated in the unincorporated area to help fund law enforcement services.

### **Cost-Avoidance Opportunities**

This is not a pertinent issue to this agency, which is a funding source for law enforcement services in the unincorporated area. The County may institute staffing or other changes but they are not directly related to this agency.

### **Opportunities for Rate Restructuring**

This is not a pertinent issue to this agency, which is a funding source for law enforcement services in the unincorporated area. It does not establish or administer rates or charges for current services.

### **Opportunities for Shared Facilities**

This is not a pertinent issue to this agency, which is a funding source for law enforcement services in the unincorporated area. This agency does not own or manage any facilities.

### **Government Structure Options**

This is not a pertinent issue to this agency, which is a funding source for law enforcement services in the unincorporated area. The district is governed by the Board of Supervisors and includes the entire unincorporated area.

### **Management Efficiencies**

This is not a pertinent issue to this agency, which is a funding source for law enforcement services in the unincorporated area. The County may institute staffing or other changes but they are not directly related to this agency.

### **Local Accountability and Governance**

The district is governed by the Board of Supervisors, which is elected by Supervisorial districts, each of which include approximately 20% of the total County population. It is administered by the County Sheriff's Office.

## **4. SPHERE OF INFLUENCE REVIEW AND UPDATE**

### Description of Current Sphere of Influence

The district's boundaries and sphere of influence are coterminous. As lands are annexed to one of the cities it is detached from the District.

### No Proposed Sphere Changes

There are no sphere changes proposed at this time.



### Sphere of Influence Determinations

Inasmuch as no changes in the sphere of influence are proposed at this time it is not necessary for the Commission to adopt or approve any determinations.

## 5. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & REFERENCES

The Santa Barbara LAFCO staff prepared this Municipal Service Review. Responsibility for any errors or omissions rests with those who prepared the report.

The Santa Barbara Sheriff's Office provided the basic information upon which the evaluation is based. Commander Jeff Meyer was instrumental in providing data.

### Available Documentation

The "Request for Information for Municipal Service Reviews" submitted by the Sheriff and supporting documents referred to therein are available in the LAFCO office.

## 6. RECOMMENDATIONS

In consideration of information gathered and evaluated during the Municipal Service Review it is recommended the Commission affirm the current Sphere of Influence and that it not be expanded or revised at this time.

# **MISSION CANYON LIGHTING**

## **MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW AND SPHERE OF INFLUENCE UPDATE**

Report to the  
**Santa Barbara Local Agency  
Formation Commission**

November 2005

## 1. INTRODUCTION

This report regarding the Mission Canyon Lighting District was prepared by the Santa Barbara Local Agency Formation Commission (“LAFCO”) in accordance with Section 56430 of the California Government Code. It responds to the requirement that LAFCO conduct a Municipal Service Review (MSR) to study the delivery of municipal services and update spheres of influence.

The MSR evaluates services provided by the District and issues regarding its sphere of influence. MSR Guidelines prepared by the State Office of Planning and Research were referred to in developing information, performing analysis and organizing this study.

This report describes service delivery and related issues for LAFCO to consider and presents determinations as required by law. The decision to approve or disapprove any determinations or policies rests entirely with the Commission.

Written determinations regarding the MSR and sphere of influence update are provided for the Commission’s consideration. This report is an informational document and does not substitute for discretionary decisions that can only be made by the Commission.

This Report is subject to reconsideration and revision as directed by the LAFCO staff or by the Commission during the course of its deliberations.

## 2. MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW

### Description of District

The District was formed in 1930 and operates pursuant to the Highway Lighting District Act (Streets & Highways Code, Section 19000 et seq.).

The District is governed by the Board of Supervisors and administered by the County Public Works Department.

The District is located in southern Santa Barbara County, is bordered on three sides by the City of Santa Barbara and on the fourth by the Los Padres National Forest.

As shown on the map, the District boundaries and sphere of influence are coterminous.

### District Services

The District provides streetlighting. It energizes 15 street lights.

### Other Governmental Agencies within the District

Local agencies that overlap the District are the County Service Area 12 ( Mission Canyon Sewers), County Service Area 32 (Law Enforcement), Santa Barbara County Fire Protection District and Santa Barbara Coastal Vector Control District.

## 3. MSR DETERMINATIONS

This report addresses the MSR factors specified in LAFCO's governing statute.

### **Infrastructure Needs and Deficiencies**

The district energizes streetlights. There are no other infrastructure needs or deficiencies.

### **Growth and Population Projections**

Mission Canyon is largely built out. The District does not influence or affect population growth or projections.

### **Financing Constraints and Opportunities**

The District receives a portion of general property tax from parcels within the district which is currently sufficient to fund District services.

### **Cost-Avoidance Opportunities**

There are no obvious cost avoidance opportunities; the majority of the cost is involved in energizing streetlights.

### **Opportunities for Rate Restructuring**

There are no obvious opportunities for rate restructuring in the operations of the District since benefit assessments are not charged for District services.

### **Opportunities for Shared Facilities**

There are no obvious opportunities for shared facilities in the operations of the District.

### **Government Structure Options**

There are no obvious opportunities for structural changes in governance of the district, other than to dissolve it and annex its service area to County Service Area No 11 which funds streetlighting in other portions of southern Santa Barbara County.

### **Management Efficiencies**

The District is managed by the County Public Works Department by utilizing a small portion of the time of current employees.

### **Local Accountability and Governance**

The District is governed by the Board of Supervisors, which is elected by districts each of which include approximately 20% of the total County population.

## **4. SPHERE OF INFLUENCE REVIEW AND UPDATE**

### Description of Current Sphere of Influence

The District boundaries and sphere are coterminous with no plans for expansion.

### Sphere of Influence Determinations

Inasmuch as no changes in the sphere of influence are proposed at this time it is not necessary for the Commission to adopt or approve any determinations.

## 5. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & REFERENCES

### Available Documentation

The “Request for Information for Municipal Service Reviews” submitted by the District and the supporting documents referred to therein are available in the LAFCO office.

The Santa Barbara LAFCO staff prepared this Municipal Service Review. Responsibility for any errors or omissions rests with those who prepared the report.

Martin Wilder in the County Public Works Department provided the basic information and documents upon which the evaluation is based.

Mapping services were provided by JDL Mapping.

## 6. RECOMMENDATIONS

In consideration of information gathered and evaluated during the Municipal Service Review it is recommended the Commission affirm the current Sphere of Influence and that it not be expanded or revised at this time.

# **MONTECITO FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**

## **MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW AND SPHERE OF INFLUENCE UPDATE**

Report to the  
**Santa Barbara Local Agency  
Formation Commission**

November 2005

## 1. INTRODUCTION

This report regarding the Montecito Fire Protection District was prepared by the Santa Barbara Local Agency Formation Commission (“LAFCO”) in accordance with Section 56430 of the California Government Code. It responds to the requirement that LAFCO conduct a Municipal Service Review (MSR) to study the delivery of municipal services and update spheres of influence.

The MSR evaluates services provided by the District and issues regarding its sphere of influence. MSR Guidelines prepared by the State Office of Planning and Research were referred to in developing information, performing analysis and organizing this study.

This report describes service delivery and related issues for LAFCO to consider and presents determinations as required by law. The decision to approve or disapprove any determinations or policies rests entirely with the Commission.

Written determinations regarding the MSR and sphere of influence update are provided for the Commission’s consideration. This report is an informational document and does not substitute for discretionary decisions that can only be made by the Commission.

This Report is subject to reconsideration and revision as directed by the LAFCO staff or by the Commission during the course of its deliberations.



## 2 . MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW

### Description of District

The District was formed in 1917 and operates pursuant to the Fire Protection District Law on 1987 (Health and Safety Code, Section 13800 et seq.).

This District in southern Santa Barbara County extends from the Carpinteria-Summerland Fire Protection District on the east to the City of Santa Barbara on the west. Beginning at the coastline it goes north to overlap portions of the Los Padres National Forest.

The District's boundaries and sphere of influence are coterminous. A map is included

The District is governed by a three member board of directors, elected at-large. The Fire Chief is responsible for administration. A District organizational chart is included.

### District Services

The District provides fire prevention and suppression, emergency medical response and transport, search and rescue, building permits and inspections, public education including CPR and First Aid instruction and vegetation management throughout the District.

Within the District the population is approximately 12,000 with about 3,500 parcels.

### Other Governmental Agencies within the District

The District overlaps the Montecito Sanitary District, Montecito Water District, County Service Area 32 (Law Enforcement), and Santa Barbara Coastal Vector Control District.

## 3 . MSR DETERMINATIONS

This report addresses the MSR factors specified in LAFCO's governing statute.

### **Infrastructure Needs and Deficiencies**

The District provides fire suppression services from two fire stations, one near Cold Springs Road and the other near San Ysidro Road.

It appears the District can accommodate current service demands from these facilities, given mutual and automatic aid agreements in place with neighboring fire agencies.

The District's highest planning priority is to acquire appropriately located land adequate to accommodate a new fire station and facilities determined to be necessary to serve the public for the next 50 years.

The District's second planning priority is the provision of housing in southern Santa Barbara County for its employees to augment on-duty forces in emergencies.

### **Growth and Population Projections**

The District provides services as population growth occurs. Its services do not affect the rate or location of development.

### **Financing Constraints and Opportunities**

The District is financed almost entirely by property taxes levied within its borders with emergency funding coming from reserve accounts. Depreciation policies provide for a facilities fund and vehicle and apparatus replacement.

### **Cost-Avoidance Opportunities**

The District participates in a mutual aid and response agreements with other emergency response agencies to obtain enhanced levels of service and coverage.

### **Opportunities for Rate Restructuring**

There are no obvious opportunities for rate restructuring in the operations of the District.

### **Opportunities for Shared Facilities**

There may be possible savings by sharing administrative and field staff and/or facilities and equipment. See following response to Government Structure Options.

### **Government Structure Options**

While no proposals have been submitted to consolidate the District with the adjacent Carpinteria – Summerland Fire Protection District, fiscal and service efficiencies and benefits to the public may result from a reorganization of fire protection agencies in southern Santa Barbara County.

As noted in the Introduction to the MSR/SOI Update report for the Eastern South Coast Area, the Legislature has declared that a single multipurpose agency may be the best mechanism for establishing community service priorities in urban areas. The Montecito community may wish to consider consolidating the local special districts that serve it.

### **Management Efficiencies**

The District exhibits the characteristics of a well-managed agency operating efficiently and serving its residents and customers effectively.

**Local Accountability and Governance**

The District Board of Directors is elected by and accountable to the voters who reside in the District. The District maintains a website and publishes fire prevention and public education ads in the local newspaper. Personnel attend monthly community meetings.

**4 . SPHERE OF INFLUENCE REVIEW AND UPDATE**

Description of Current Sphere of Influence

The District’s boundaries and sphere of influence are coterminous.

No Proposed Sphere Changes

In response to the MSR Request for Information, the District responded as follows:

- Do you feel that your agency’s boundary is correct at this time? Yes
- Are there areas your agency desires or plans to serve that are not now within is boundaries or its sphere of influence? No
- Are there areas your agency currently serves that might be served more efficiently by another agency? No

Sphere of Influence Determinations

Inasmuch as no changes in the sphere of influence are proposed at this time it is not necessary for the Commission to adopt or approve any determinations.

**5 . ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & REFERENCES**

The Santa Barbara LAFCO staff prepared this Municipal Service Review. Responsibility for any errors or omissions rests with those who prepared the report.

The Montecito Fire Protection District provided the basic information and documents upon which the evaluation is based. The District staff, notably Fire Chief Ron McClain was instrumental in providing data.

Mapping services were provided by JDL Mapping.

Available Documentation

The “Request for Information for Municipal Service Reviews” submitted by the District and supporting documents referred to therein are available in the LAFCO office.

## 6. RECOMMENDATIONS

In consideration of information gathered and evaluated during the Municipal Service Review it is recommended the Commission affirm the current Sphere of Influence and that it not be expanded or revised at this time.

# **MONTECITO SANITARY DISTRICT**

## **MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW AND SPHERE OF INFLUENCE UPDATE**

Report to the  
**Santa Barbara Local Agency  
Formation Commission**

November 2005

## 1. INTRODUCTION

This report regarding the Montecito Sanitary District was prepared by the Santa Barbara Local Agency Formation Commission (“LAFCO”) in accordance with Section 56430 of the California Government Code. It responds to the requirement that LAFCO conduct a Municipal Service Review (MSR) to study the delivery of municipal services and update spheres of influence.

The MSR evaluates services provided by the District and issues regarding its sphere of influence. MSR Guidelines prepared by the State Office of Planning and Research were referred to in developing information, performing analysis and organizing this study.

This report describes service delivery and related issues for LAFCO to consider and presents determinations as required by law. The decision to approve or disapprove any determinations or policies rests entirely with the Commission.

Written determinations regarding the MSR and sphere of influence update are provided for the Commission’s consideration. This report is an informational document and does not substitute for discretionary decisions that can only be made by the Commission.

This Report is subject to reconsideration and revision as directed by the LAFCO staff or by the Commission during the course of its deliberations.

## 2. MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW

### Description of District

The District was formed in 1947 and operates pursuant to the Sanitary District Act of 1923 (Health & Safety Code, Section 6400 et seq.).

Located in southern Santa Barbara County, it extends from Ladera Lane on the east to the City of Santa Barbara on the west, encompassing Montecito.

A five-member board of directors, elected at-large, governs the District. A General Manager/Engineer is responsible for administrative functions. A District organizational chart is included.

The District's boundaries and sphere of influence are largely coterminous. A map of the District and its sphere is included.

### District Services

The District collects, treats and disposes of liquid waste. There are approximately 2,979 parcels connected to sewers in the Montecito Sanitary District.

### Other Governmental Agencies within the District

The District overlaps the Montecito Fire Protection District, Montecito Water District, County Service Area 32 (Law Enforcement) and Santa Barbara Coastal Vector Control District.

## 3. MSR DETERMINATIONS

This report addresses the MSR factors specified in LAFCO's governing statute.

### **Infrastructure Needs and Deficiencies**

The District's existing wastewater collection and treatment infrastructure is sufficient to accommodate current and known demands.

The District reports that aging facilities (above and underground) will continue to create large capital replacement needs and the need to raise annual service charges to customers.

### **Growth and Population Projections**

The District accepts the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments' population growth projections for its planning purposes.

## **Financing Constraints and Opportunities**

The District receives service charges from its users, a portion of the general property tax and revenues from permit fees. It is reasonable to conclude these revenue sources are sufficient to fund its obligations for service including system improvements, recognizing that some adjustment of user charges may be necessary over time.

## **Cost-Avoidance Opportunities**

There are no obvious cost avoidance opportunities in its wastewater operations since the most significant costs are related treating and discharging wastewater effluent. The District plans to install variable frequency pump drives at the treatment plant and a remote lift station to reduce operational costs. It has also cooperated in a joint bid and contract with the City of Santa Barbara for pipeline work.

## **Opportunities for Rate Restructuring**

There are no obvious rate restructuring opportunities.

## **Opportunities for Shared Facilities**

The sewer collection and treatment facilities are designed for the service area and do not offer opportunities for shared facilities.

## **Government Structure Options**

LAFCO's enabling legislation indicates a multipurpose governmental agency, especially in urban areas, may be the best mechanism to account for community needs, financial resources and service priorities.

While the District has not identified any government structure options, it may be that a legal or functional consolidation with other Montecito based local agencies may result in greater overall economy or efficiency in providing services to the community.

## **Management Efficiencies**

The District exhibits the characteristics of a well-managed agency operating efficiently and serving its residents and customers effectively.

## **Local Accountability and Governance**

The District is a relatively compact government, which enhances the ability of the public to participate in its activities. The Board of Directors is elected by and accountable to the voters who reside in the District. The District maintains a website, distributes newsletters and participates in community events.



## 4. SPHERE OF INFLUENCE REVIEW AND UPDATE

### Description of Current Sphere of Influence

The District's boundaries and sphere of influence are largely coterminous. A map of the District and its sphere are included.

### No Proposed Sphere Changes

In response to the MSR Request for Information, the District responded as follows:

Do you feel that your agency's boundary is correct at this time? Yes

Are there areas your agency desires or plans to serve that are not now within its boundaries or its sphere of influence? Yes

The District indicates that various properties on the eastern side of Ladera Lane have expressed interest in annexing to the District.

Are there areas your agency currently serves that might be served more efficiently by another agency? No

### Sphere of Influence Determinations

Inasmuch as no changes in the sphere of influence are proposed at this time it is not necessary for the Commission to adopt or approve any determinations.

## 5. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & REFERENCES

The Santa Barbara LAFCO staff prepared this Municipal Service Review. Responsibility for any errors or omissions rests with those who prepared the report.

The Montecito Sanitary District provided the basic information and documents upon which the evaluation is based. The District staff, notably General Manager/Engineer Diane Gabriel was instrumental in providing data.

Mapping services were provided by JDL Mapping.

### Available Documentation

The "Request for Information for Municipal Service Reviews" submitted by the District and the supporting documents referred to therein are available in the LAFCO office.

## 6. RECOMMENDATIONS

In consideration of information gathered and evaluated during the Municipal Service Review it is recommended the Commission affirm the current Sphere of Influence and consideration be given to expanding the sphere when an application is received.

# **MONTECITO WATER DISTRICT**

## **MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW AND SPHERE OF INFLUENCE UPDATE**

Report to the  
**Santa Barbara Local Agency  
Formation Commission**

November 2005

## 1. INTRODUCTION

This report regarding the Montecito Water District was prepared by the Santa Barbara Local Agency Formation Commission (“LAFCO”) in accordance with Section 56430 of the California Government Code. It responds to the requirement that LAFCO conduct a Municipal Service Review (MSR) to study the delivery of municipal services and update spheres of influence.

The MSR evaluates services provided by the District and issues regarding its sphere of influence. MSR Guidelines prepared by the State Office of Planning and Research were referred to in developing information, performing analysis and organizing this study.

This report describes service delivery and related issues for LAFCO to consider and presents determinations as required by law. The decision to approve or disapprove any determinations or policies rests entirely with the Commission.

Written determinations regarding the MSR and sphere of influence update are provided for the Commission’s consideration. This report is an informational document and does not substitute for discretionary decisions that can only be made by the Commission.

This Report is subject to reconsideration and revision as directed by the LAFCO staff or by the Commission during the course of its deliberations.

## 2. MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW

### Description of District

The District was formed in 1921 and operates pursuant to the County Water District Law (Water Code, Section 30000 et seq.).

It is located in southern Santa Barbara County from east of Toro Canyon Road on the east to the City of Santa Barbara on the west. It extends inland from the ocean and in some areas overlaps the Los Padres National Forest. It encompasses the communities of Montecito and Summerland.

The District is governed by a five-member board of directors, elected at-large. A General Manager is responsible for administrative functions. A District organizational chart is included.

The District's boundaries and sphere of influence are largely coterminous. A map of the District and its sphere is included.

### District Services

The District provides retail water delivery and conservation. It services approximately 4,254 water connections.

### Other Governmental Agencies within the District

Local agencies that overlap the District include the City of Santa Barbara, Carpinteria-Summerland Fire Protection District, County Service Area 11 (Carpinteria Valley), County Service Area 32 (Law Enforcement), Montecito Sanitary District, Montecito Fire Protection District and Santa Barbara Coastal Vector Control District.

## 3. MSR DETERMINATIONS

This report addresses the MSR factors specified in LAFCO's governing statute.

### **Infrastructure Needs and Deficiencies**

The "Water Distribution System and Fire Flow Upgrade Program" (July 1996) identifies facilities planned by the District at an estimated overall cost of \$5,102,050. While one of the challenges facing the District is to secure adequate water supplies during periods of drought, the District is currently able to provide adequate quantity and quality water to its customers.

The District has adopted an Urban Water Management Plan Update (April 2001).

From information provided in the District's adopted plan, it obtains water from four basic sources: Cachuma Project, State Water Project, surface diversions and to a much smaller degree from groundwater wells.

### **Growth and Population Projections**

The District accepts the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments' population growth projections for its planning purposes.

### **Financing Constraints and Opportunities**

The District bills customers monthly for service fees and water used, and receives fees for new meter connections. In addition an annual Water Availability Charge is paid by all parcels within the District. It is reasonable to conclude these revenue sources are sufficient to fund its obligations for service including system improvements.

### **Cost-Avoidance Opportunities**

There are no obvious cost avoidance opportunities in water operations.

### **Opportunities for Rate Restructuring**

There are no obvious opportunities for rate restructuring.

### **Opportunities for Shared Facilities**

There are no obvious opportunities for shared facilities in the operations of the District. The District cooperates with other water agencies in building and operating the facilities that provide much of the District's water supply, specifically the Central Coast Water Authority for State Water Project and the Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board for the Bradbury Dam, Tecolote Tunnel and South Coast Conduit.

The District provides administration for a joint Cross Connection Program with the Carpinteria Valley Water District.

### **Government Structure Options**

LAFCO's enabling legislation indicates a multipurpose governmental agency, especially in urban areas, may be the best mechanism to account for community needs, financial resources and service priorities.

While the District has not identified any government structure options, it may be that a legal or functional consolidation with other Montecito based local agencies may result in greater overall economy or efficiency in providing services to the community.

**Management Efficiencies**

The District exhibits the characteristics of a well-managed agency operating efficiently and serving its residents and customers effectively.

**Local Accountability and Governance**

The District is a relatively compact government, which enhances the ability of the public to participate in its activities. The Board of Directors is elected by and accountable to the voters who reside in the District. The District maintains a website and mails quarterly newsletters to all customers..

**4 . SPHERE OF INFLUENCE REVIEW AND UPDATE**

Description of Current Sphere of Influence

The District’s boundaries and sphere of influence are coterminous.

No Proposed Sphere Changes

In response to the MSR Request for Information, the District responded as follows:

Do you feel that your agency’s boundary is correct at this time? Yes.

Are there areas your agency desires or plans to serve that are not now within is boundaries or its sphere of influence? No

Are there areas your agency currently serves that might be served more efficiently by another agency? No

Sphere of Influence Determinations

Inasmuch as no changes in the sphere of influence are proposed at this time it is not necessary for the Commission to adopt or approve any determinations.

**5 . ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & REFERENCES**

The Santa Barbara LAFCO staff prepared this Municipal Service Review. Responsibility for any errors or omissions rests with those who prepared the report.

The Montecito Valley Water District provided the basic information and documents upon which the evaluation is based. The District staff, notably Business Manager Evalyn Kerman was instrumental in providing data.

Mapping services were provided by JDL Mapping.

Available Documentation

The “Request for Information for Municipal Service Reviews” submitted by the District and the supporting documents referred to therein are available in the LAFCO office.

**6 . R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S**

In consideration of information gathered and evaluated during the Municipal Service Review it is recommended the Commission affirm the current Sphere of Influence and that it not be expanded or revised at this time.



**SANTA BARBARA COASTAL  
VECTOR CONTROL  
DISTRICT**

**MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW AND  
SPHERE OF INFLUENCE UPDATE**

Report to the  
**Santa Barbara Local Agency  
Formation Commission**

November 2005

## 1. INTRODUCTION

This report regarding the Santa Barbara Coastal Vector Control District was prepared by the Santa Barbara Local Agency Formation Commission (“LAFCO”) in accordance with Section 56430 of the California Government Code. It responds to the requirement that LAFCO conduct a Municipal Service Review (MSR) to study the delivery of municipal services and update spheres of influence.

The MSR evaluates services provided by the District and issues regarding its sphere of influence. MSR Guidelines prepared by the State Office of Planning and Research were referred to in developing information, performing analysis and organizing this study.

This report describes service delivery and related issues for LAFCO to consider and presents determinations as required by law. The decision to approve or disapprove any determinations or policies rests entirely with the Commission.

Written determinations regarding the MSR and sphere of influence update are provided for the Commission’s consideration. This report is an informational document and does not substitute for discretionary decisions that can only be made by the Commission.

This Report is subject to reconsideration and revision as directed by the LAFCO staff or by the Commission during the course of its deliberations.

## 2. MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW

### Description of District

The District was formed 1959 and operates pursuant to the Pest Abatement District Law (Health and Safety Code, Section 2200 et seq.).

The District encompasses the unincorporated area and the Cities of Carpinteria, Goleta and Santa Barbara. It excludes the Cities of Buellton, Guadalupe, Lompoc, Santa Maria and Solvang.

The District is governed by an eight -member board of trustees, appointed by the Board of Supervisors and City Councils of cities within the District. A General Manager is responsible for administrative functions.

The District's boundaries and sphere of influence are not coterminous. Territory within the City of Santa Barbara was recently annexed to the District to obtain services. For cities that are "outside" of the District, as land is annexed to the city it is concurrently detached from the District.

### District Services

The District provides abatement of mosquitoes, roof rats and other disease vectors and routine surveillance of vector-borne disease.

### Other Governmental Agencies within the District

Local agencies that overlap the District area include the City of Carpinteria, City of Santa Barbara, Carpinteria Sanitary District, Carpinteria-Summerland Fire Protection District, Carpinteria Water District, County Service Area 11 (Carpinteria Valley), County Service Area 12 (Mission Canyon), County Service Area 32 (Law Enforcement), Mission Canyon Lighting District, Montecito Fire Protection District, Montecito Sanitary District, Montecito Water District and Summerland Sanitary District.

## 3. MSR DETERMINATIONS

This report addresses the MSR factors specified in LAFCO's governing statute.

### **Infrastructure Needs and Deficiencies**

The District provided to LAFCO in October 2004 a report on its current service plans and programs. It indicates the District is progressing with the purchase of equipment and hiring of personnel to conduct a more effective response to the threat of West Nile Virus disease in the County.

It appears from the information provided that the District is will be able to accommodate the potential added service demands related to annexing the City of Santa Barbara.

### **Growth and Population Projections**

The District generates revenues that increase as population growth occurs. The District's services do not affect the rate or location of population development.

### **Financing Constraints and Opportunities**

District revenues are limited to growth in the property tax allocation it receives from the general property tax levy, the amount the County allocated to the District in the North County area and assessments on parcels within the District.

Opportunities for revenue enhancement include the potential of annexing cities that are outside of the District and imposing assessments on the parcels in such annexation area in conjunction with providing District services to the annexation area.

### **Cost-Avoidance Opportunities**

There are no obvious cost avoidance opportunities in providing District services.

### **Opportunities for Rate Restructuring**

There are no obvious opportunities for rate restructuring in the operations of the District.

### **Opportunities for Shared Facilities**

There are no obvious opportunities for shared facilities in the operations of the District.

### **Government Structure Options**

There are no obvious opportunities for a different government structure, other than the County becoming responsible for vector control activities. The County previously decided to defer to the District to provide these types of services.

### **Management Efficiencies**

While it is still in a growth stage the District exhibits characteristics of a agency that is operating efficiently and serving its residents and customers effectively.

### **Local Accountability and Governance**

The District is governed by the Board of Trustees appointed by the Board of Supervisors and by City Councils of cities within the District.

## 4. SPHERE OF INFLUENCE REVIEW AND UPDATE

### Description of Current Sphere of Influence

The District's boundaries and sphere of influence are not coterminous. The sphere is countywide but some cities are included in the District. When cities "outside" of the District annex land, the land is concurrently detached from the District.

### No Proposed Sphere Changes

There are no sphere changes proposed at this time.

### Sphere of Influence Determinations

Inasmuch as no changes in the sphere of influence are proposed at this time it is not necessary for the Commission to adopt or approve any determinations.

## 5. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & REFERENCES

The Santa Barbara LAFCO staff prepared this Municipal Service Review. Responsibility for any errors or omissions rests with those who prepared the report.

The Santa Barbara Coastal Vector Control District provided the basic information upon which the evaluation is based. The District General Manager Mitch Bernstein was instrumental in providing data.

### Available Documentation

The "Request for Information for Municipal Service Reviews" submitted by the District and supporting documents referred to therein are available in the LAFCO office.

## 6. RECOMMENDATIONS

In consideration of information gathered and evaluated during the Municipal Service Review it is recommended the Commission affirm the current Sphere of Influence.

# **SUMMERLAND SANITARY DISTRICT**

## **MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW AND SPHERE OF INFLUENCE UPDATE**

Report to the  
**Santa Barbara Local Agency  
Formation Commission**

November 2005

## 1. INTRODUCTION

This report regarding the Summerland Sanitary District was prepared by the Santa Barbara Local Agency Formation Commission (“LAFCO”) in accordance with Section 56430 of the California Government Code. It responds to the requirement that LAFCO conduct a Municipal Service Review (MSR) to study the delivery of municipal services and update spheres of influence.

The MSR evaluates services provided by the District and issues regarding its sphere of influence. MSR Guidelines prepared by the State Office of Planning and Research were referred to in developing information, performing analysis and organizing this study.

This report describes service delivery and related issues for LAFCO to consider and presents determinations as required by law. The decision to approve or disapprove any determinations or policies rests entirely with the Commission.

Written determinations regarding the MSR and sphere of influence update are provided for the Commission’s consideration. This report is an informational document and does not substitute for discretionary decisions that can only be made by the Commission.

This Report is subject to reconsideration and revision as directed by the LAFCO staff or by the Commission during the course of its deliberations.

## 2. MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW

### Description of District

The District was formed in 1956 and operates pursuant to the Sanitary District Act of 1923 (Health & Safety Code, Section 6400 et seq.).

Located in southern Santa Barbara County, it includes the community of Summerland and extends on the east from Toro Canyon Road to the homes facing Ortega Ridge Road on the west.

A five-member board of directors, elected at-large, governs the District. A General Manager is responsible for administrative functions.

The District's boundaries and sphere of influence are coterminous. A map of the District and its sphere is included.

### District Services

The District collects, treats and disposes of wastewater. There are approximately 420 wastewater connections.

### Other Governmental Agencies within the District

The District overlaps the Carpinteria-Summerland Fire Protection District, Montecito Water District, County Service Area 11 (Carpinteria Valley), County Service Area 32 (Law Enforcement) and Santa Barbara Coastal Vector Control District.

## 3. MSR DETERMINATIONS

This report addresses the MSR factors specified in LAFCO's governing statute.

### **Infrastructure Needs and Deficiencies**

The District's existing wastewater collection and treatment infrastructure is sufficient to accommodate current and known demands.

### **Growth and Population Projections**

The District accepts the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments' population growth projections for its planning purposes.



## **Financing Constraints and Opportunities**

The District collects service charges from its users and revenues from permit fees. It is reasonable to conclude these revenue sources are sufficient to fund its obligations for service including system improvements.

## **Cost-Avoidance Opportunities**

There are no obvious cost avoidance opportunities in the wastewater operations since the most significant costs are related to treating and discharging wastewater effluent.

## **Opportunities for Rate Restructuring**

There are no obvious rate restructuring opportunities, recognizing the District recently raised its service fees for the first time in many years.

## **Opportunities for Shared Facilities**

The sewer collection and treatment facilities are designed for the service area and do not offer opportunities for shared facilities.

## **Government Structure Options**

While the District has not identified any government structure options, it is noted that the Summerland Water District was in 1995 dissolved and combined with the Montecito Water District. Although the District is managed quite frugally, it may be that a consolidation with the Montecito Sanitary District may result in greater overall economy or efficiency in providing services for both communities.

## **Management Efficiencies**

The District exhibits the characteristics of an agency operating efficiently and serving its residents and customers effectively.

## **Local Accountability and Governance**

The District is a compact government, which enhances the public's ability to participate in its activities. The Board of Directors is elected by and accountable to the voters who reside in the District.

# **4. SPHERE OF INFLUENCE REVIEW AND UPDATE**

## **Description of Current Sphere of Influence**

The District's boundaries and sphere of influence are coterminous. A map of the District and its sphere are included.

### No Proposed Sphere Changes

No sphere changes are proposed.

### Sphere of Influence Determinations

Inasmuch as no changes in the sphere of influence are proposed at this time it is not necessary for the Commission to adopt or approve any determinations.

## 5. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & REFERENCES

The Santa Barbara LAFCO staff prepared this Municipal Service Review. Responsibility for any errors or omissions rests with those who prepared the report.

The Summerland Sanitary District provided the basic information and documents upon which the evaluation is based. The District staff, notably General Manager Art Custer was instrumental in providing data.

Mapping services were provided by JDL Mapping.

### Available Documentation

The “Request for Information for Municipal Service Reviews” submitted by the District and the supporting documents referred to therein are available in the LAFCO office.

## 6. RECOMMENDATIONS

In consideration of information gathered and evaluated during the Municipal Service Review it is recommended the Commission affirm the current Sphere of Influence and that it not be expanded or revised at this time.