

**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY
BOARD AGENDA LETTER**



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
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Agenda Number:
Prepared on: 23 February, 2001
Department Name: County Administrator
Department No.: 012
Agenda Date: 27 March 2001
Placement: Departmental
Estimate Time: 15 minutes
Continued Item: NO
If Yes, date from:

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Michael F. Brown
County Administrator

STAFF CONTACT: William Chiat
Director of Organizational Effectiveness, 568-3407

SUBJECT: Annexation to County Services Area #3 (Goleta Valley)

Recommendation(s):

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Adopt the enclosed resolution initiating procedures to annex territory to County Service Area No. 3 (Goleta Valley).
2. Authorize the County Administrator to file the annexation application with the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO).
3. Request LAFCO to waive the LAFCO processing fees since LAFCO is funded by the County General Fund.

Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:

This recommendation is primarily aligned with Goal #1: An Efficient Government Able to Respond Effectively to the Needs of the Community; and Goal #6: A County Government that is Accessible, Open, and Citizen-Friendly.

Executive Summary and Discussion:

County Service Area No. 3 (CSA 3) funds several municipal services in the Goleta Valley, including: 1) street lighting; 2) acquisition and maintenance of parks and open space; 3) support for the Goleta Valley Community Center; and 4) enhanced library services. CSA 3 energizes more than 2,800 streetlights and maintains in excess of 223 acres of open space in 51 separate locations. This County-governed special district was formed in 1962 and operates pursuant to the County Services Area Law (§25210.1 et seq.).

In June, 1990 the voters approved a special tax in CSA 3 to fund “Extended Library Facilities and Services.” The votes in favor were 12,085; opposed 2,646. This special assessment is based on “benefit factors” for each parcel that differ with the type of existing land use. For FY 2000-2001 it is projected that the assessments will generate \$274,570 for library services and \$147,000 for street lighting in CSA 3. The per parcel assessment varies depending on type of use. The current annual assessment for a single family residence is \$15.71 for libraries and \$8 for street lighting.

The boundaries of County Service Area No. 3 include much of the Goleta Valley. However, over time as development has occurred some parcels in the Goleta Community Plan area have been annexed to CSA 3 while others have not. As a result, CSA 3 is somewhat of a patchwork of properties developed for residential and other urbanized purposes included and excluded from the CSA, even though all properties receive the benefits of the library and street lighting. The attached map highlights the current situation.

The issue of this patchwork has come to light in negotiations on the proposed incorporation of the City of Goleta. Part of CSA 3 is within the proposed city. Under California law, if the city is formed there will be an automatic detachment from CSA 3 of lands within the new city and the city will become responsible within its boundaries for services presently funded and provided by CSA 3. This presents some challenges because of the parcels not currently in CSA 3. Staff, the incorporation proponents, and LAFCO staff believe it will be preferable to have the entire City of Goleta, if it is incorporated, within the boundaries of CSA 3 prior to incorporation. This will make it much easier for the new city to assume the responsibilities of CSA 3 and levy the assessments since it will not necessary for to create a separate zone or area of benefit to isolate the special tax.

If incorporation does not occur, it will still benefit CSA 3 to have the entire Goleta Valley within the district for fairness and uniformity of support for library services and street lighting. It will also eliminate pockets of territory that are surrounded by but are not within CSA 3.

Therefore staff proposes that your Board initiate a proceeding to annex to CSA 3 parcels within the urban growth line of the Goleta Community Plan that are not presently within CSA 3. The County will request LAFCO to condition this annexation to include only assessments for the library and street lighting, and no other services or assessments. If properly conditioned by LAFCO in its approval of an annexation, as lands are annexed to CSA 3 they will become subject to the special assessment previously approved by the voters and will contribute their proportionate share of support to the library and street lighting services.

If the Board of Supervisors adopts the attached resolution, the County staff will file the application with LAFCO and the matter will proceed through public hearings. Notice will be provided to all property owners and registered voters within the annexation area.

Mandates and Service Levels:

The Board of Supervisors has the authority to initiate annexation proceedings with LAFCO.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

The cost of preparing the property survey is approximately \$2,500 and will be paid from cost savings in the Surveyor's office. There will be a LAFCO processing fee and State Board of Equalization (SBE) filing fee needed to process and complete the annexation. As regards the LAFCO fee your Board could request LAFCO to waive that fee on the basis that LAFCO is a General Fund budget unit and the fee would come from another General Fund budget unit, hence it would not represent actual revenue. The SBE fee will be approximately \$1,000.

Special Instructions:

Direct the County Administrator to file the annexation application with LAFCO.