

UPDATING SPHERES OF INFLUENCE AND PREPARING MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEWS



Required by Government Code Section 56430

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

Tuesday, July 8, 2003



Origin of LAFCO

- LAFCO created in response to urban sprawl, illogical patterns of development, annexation “wars” and haphazard public services
- LAFCO was a political compromise by CSAC and LCC creating new, powerful organization in each county
- LAFCO’s purposes are to encourage orderly boundaries and discourage urban sprawl



Sequence of Legislation

- **1963** – LAFCO is created and directed to regulate local government boundaries
- **1971** – LAFCO is directed to plan the future organization of local governments through Spheres of Influence
- **2002** – LAFCO is directed to review and update SOIs every five years by using Municipal Service Reviews



Spheres of Influence

- LAFCO must develop a Sphere of Influence for each city and district
- A Sphere of Influence is defined as a “plan for the probable physical boundaries and service area of” the local agency



New LAFCO Duties

- Review and update each sphere of influence at least **every five years**
- Prepare **Municipal Service Reviews** in conjunction with updating spheres of influence



Basic MSR and SOI Issues

- Where are public services adequate or where can they be adequate?
- Where should city & district boundaries extend to allow development?
- What is the logical structure of local agencies for Santa Barbara County?



To Prepare Municipal Service Reviews

LAFCO must comprehensively review all agencies that provide identified services within the chosen geographic area, and

Must choose the geographic area or type of service that is appropriate for analysis of the services to be reviewed.



Reviews Tied to Spheres

LAFCO must conduct a service review before, or in conjunction with, but not later than, the time it considers an action to establish or update a sphere of influence.



Integrate Service Reviews and Land Use Planning


Service reviews and spheres of influence should relate municipal services with regional issues, goals and objectives, including land use plans and projections.



Written Determinations

LAFCO must prepare a written statement with respect to:

- Infrastructure needs or deficiencies
- Growth and population projections for the affected area
- Financing constraints and opportunities
- Cost avoidance opportunities
- Opportunities for rate restructuring
- Opportunities for shared facilities
- Government structure options, i.e., advantages and disadvantages of consolidating or reorganizing agencies
- Evaluation of management efficiencies
- Local accountability and governance



How did the Santa Barbara LAFCO Choose to Proceed?

The Commission created a Technical Task Force to recommend:

- Structure and process for this significant planning effort
- The best work plan, including who should be involved and what data to use



Technical Task Force

- County Administrator Mike Brown
- City Manager Dave Durflinger
- District Manager Charles Hamilton
- County Planning Director Val Alexeeff
- City Planning Director Arleen Pelster
- SBCAG Executive Director Jim Kemp
- Executive Officer Bob Braitman



Draft Documents Were Distributed for Review

- MSR Work Plan
- MSR Request for Information
- MSR Operational Policies
- MSR Grouping by Geography or Service
- MSR Preparation and Adoption Schedule



MSR Work Plan

- Statutory Requirements
- Goals for MSR Process
- Groupings of Local Agencies for Study
- Research and Adoption Schedule
- Define Written Determinations
- Integrate with Other Planning Actions



MSR Request for Information

- Describe Agency
- Identify Services Provided
- Provide Financial Information
- Define Service Area & Level of Service
- Discuss Future Planning
- Focus on Efficiencies and Cost Savings



MSR Operational Policies

- MSRs Connected to Updating Spheres
- Identify the Services to be Studied
- Identify Geographic Areas & Agencies
- Define Sources & Types of Data
- Compliance with CEQA



MSR Grouping by Geography or Type of Service

- Lompoc Area
- Santa Maria Valley
- Santa Barbara/Goleta Valley
- Eastern South Coast
- Santa Ynez Valley
- Cuyama Valley
- And by the type of service provided



MSR Preparation and Adoption Schedule

- Kick Off Meetings with local agencies
- Data gathering - 60 to 90 days
- Data review and analysis – 60 days
- Review draft report & recommendations
- LAFCO public hearing and adoption

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