

LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION
SAN BENITO COUNTY

2301 Technology Parkway
Hollister, CA 95023
Phone: (831) 637-5313

July 24, 2014 (Agenda)

Local Agency Formation Commission
2301 Technology Parkway
Hollister CA 95023

Report on Future Agenda Items

Dear Members of the Commission:

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended the Commission receive this report.

DISCUSSION

Introduction

This month marks a year that I have served as the Executive Officer. A number of the items listed in our work plan presented to the Commission on July 25, 2013 have been achieved.

The purpose of this letter is to report on the following items that still need attention and that we plan to pursue during the coming months.

Directory of Local Agencies

We have compiled and presented to the Commission a Directory of Local Agencies that is intended to serve as a guide to the local agencies in the County.

The Directory lists cities and special districts within the Commission's jurisdiction and presents basic information about each, such what services they provide, how they are governed and where they are located.

Still missing are acceptable display maps for each agency but we are working with the County Surveyor staff to secure such maps, a process that will be facilitated by the adoption of the Commission's current fiscal year budget.

Update Spheres of Influence

The law requires that LAFCO periodically review and update spheres of influence. We have provided all cities and special districts with a request for information and questionnaire to complete; most have responded and others have not.

The Commission has already updated and brought current the spheres of influence for the Aromas Water District and San Benito County Water District.

The following agencies are included in our plan to review and update spheres:

- City of Hollister

We have requested but not yet received a completed questionnaire from the City. We are continuing to be in contact with the City staff and understand a proposed sphere of influence proposal will be forthcoming in the near future.

- City of San Juan Bautista

The City is in the process of updating its General Plan. We have consulted with City staff and commented on the draft General Plan. We are continuing our discussions with the City and will recommend a sphere of influence update following adoption by the City Council of the updated General Plan.

- Aromas Tri-County Fire Protection District

We have reviewed the information submitted by the District and have scheduled a meeting with the District staff before proceeding to place the matter on the agenda.

- Pacheco Pass Water District

Portions of this District are located in two counties, San Benito and Santa Clara. We have received the completed questionnaire from the District. We understand it has been difficult to maintain a full five-member board of directors.

A meeting is scheduled with representatives of the District, San Benito County Water District, Santa Clara Valley Water District and both LAFCO staffs.

We will be able to report more specifically regarding the Pacheco Pass Water District following this "all hands" discussion.

- San Benito Healthcare District

The existence of this District came as somewhat of a surprise. There was no file about the District in the LAFCO office, nor did the draft Countywide Municipal Services Review prepared in 2007 mention the District.

After preliminary investigation, staff has confirmed the Healthcare District is a public agency that is within LAFCO's jurisdiction.

We have conferred with the District staff and have requested they provide us with a completed questionnaire, at which time we can proceed to present a municipal service review and sphere of influence to the Commission for approval.

- San Benito Resource Conservation District

We have requested but not received a completed questionnaire for this countywide District. We understand it may be relatively inactive.

We have been in contact with staff from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service which we understand works with the District and plan to attend the next meeting of the District board of directors.

- San Juan Bautista Cemetery District

We have requested but not received a completed questionnaire for this District. We have scheduled meeting with a member of the District Board of Directors in order to move this process forward.

- Sunnyslope County Water District

The District has provided sufficient information for our office to schedule a hearing on updating its sphere of influence. We delayed that hearing pending hearing the Southside Road Annexation to the District (LAFCO 485) which is scheduled to be heard by the Commission on July 24, 2014.

We intend to schedule a hearing to review and update the District sphere of influence at the Commission meeting on August 28.

- Tres Pinos County Water District

We have requested but not received a completed questionnaire for this District. We have a meeting scheduled with the District staff to move this process forward.

- County Service Areas

County Service Areas are special districts governed by the Board of Supervisors. There are 31 active CSAs and seven “inactive” CSAs in San Benito County.

We are working with Lynette Redman, the CSA Coordinator in the County Public Works Department, to gain a better understanding of what services each CSA provides and where they are located.

It is our intention to present a report about CSAs, including recommending updates to their spheres of influence at a future LAFCO meeting.

Inventory of Mutual Water Companies

A change in State law two years ago created new obligations for LAFCOs and mutual water companies. Section 14301.1 was added to the Corporations Code requiring that “each mutual water company that operates a public water system shall submit to the local agency formation commission for its county a map depicting the approximate boundaries of the property that the mutual water company serves.”

The law further provides that water companies must respond to a request from LAFCO for information in connection with the preparation of municipal service reviews or spheres of influence for cities and special districts.

We have been in contact with Darryl Wong, Director of the Environmental Health for San Benito County to obtain a list or directory of mutual water companies. That process is still underway and it may take some time to identify all of these private purveyors.

Commissioner Handbook

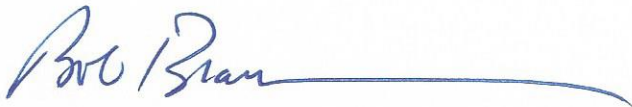
Our intent is to create a document that contains various Commission policies and other relevant information. This is coming along more slowly than we anticipated but it continues to receive our attention. We hope to have a Commissioner Handbook available for approval by the Commission within the next six months.

Closing

Other responsibilities may present themselves of which we are not presently aware and it may become necessary to adjust the work plan based on unforeseen events, but all of the activities listed above seem to be timely and relevant.

Please contact the LAFCO office if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bob Braitman", followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

BOB BRAITMAN
Executive Officer