

DATE: September 5, 2008

TO: Members, Local Agency Formation Commission
Interested Agencies and Individuals

FROM: Peter Banning, Executive Officer
Evelyn Ellis, Assistant Planner

SUBJECT: Marin Resource Conservation District Service Review & Sphere of
Influence Update

The staff report and recommendations for the Marin Resource Conservation District Service Review and Sphere of Influence Update are released herewith and posted on the LAFCO website at lafco.marin.org. The report (attached) has been distributed to public agencies and interested persons who have provided information for the study. The Commission is scheduled to open the public hearing on the report and recommendations at its September 11, 2008 meeting and to continue the hearing for additional testimony and comment to the November 13, 2008 Commission meeting.

The report contains descriptive material on how conservation services are provided by the Marin Resource Conservation District and staff's recommendations for updating the sphere of influence of the District as required by Sections 56425 and 56430 of the Government Code. These code sections require LAFCO to review adopted spheres of influence every five years. Under this requirement, the sphere of influence of the Marin Resource Conservation District will be reviewed again in 2013. The Commission has also adopted policies and procedures for reviewing adopted spheres of influence at the request of interested parties as conditions warrant during the five-year interval between periodic reviews.

During the public hearings, staff will recap the contents of the report and correspondence received; respond to the Commission's questions and correct any reporting errors identified in testimony. The Commission will receive testimony from all interested persons on the content and recommendations in the report. The anticipated schedule of hearings is planned to allow public testimony for the sphere of influence under study to be heard by the Commission during a minimum of two separate Commission meetings.

Environmental Review

In the case of the proposed actions recommended in this report, there would be no change to the existing sphere of influence for the Marin Resource Conservation District. No extension of service to new areas is inherent in this action. Section 15320 of the State CEQA Guidelines provides exemption for LAFCO actions where the geographical area in which previously existing powers of local government (e.g. provision of services) is not changed. Staff will accordingly prepare a Certificate of Exemption, unless otherwise directed by the Commission.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Commission take the following actions:

1. Receive the staff report and presentation for Marin Resource Conservation Service Review and Sphere of Influence Update;
2. Open the public hearing and receive testimony on the report and recommendations;
3. Continue the public hearing to the November 13, 2008 Commission meeting to provide time for review and comment by affected agencies, organizations and individuals;
4. Direct staff to respond to public comments during the course of the hearing and to clarify the content of the report where necessary; and
5. Adopt the Resolutions updating the service review and spheres of influence of the Marin Resource Conservation District at the November 13, 2008 Commission meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Banning
Executive Officer

Evelyn Ellis
Assistant Planner