

✓ RE: NOTICE FROM KERN COUNTY LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION REGARDING ANNEXATION OF INDIAN WELLS VALLEY COUNTY WATER DISTRICT NO. 260 CONTAINING PROPERTY LOCATED IN COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO.

At this time Mr. Robert B. Rigney, Assistant Executive Officer, refers to notice received from Kern County LAFC regarding an annexation of Indian Wells Valley County Water District which includes territory in San Bernardino County, to wit: Sections 1, 12, 13, and 24, Township 27 South, Range 40 East, and a portion of Section 6 in Township 27 South, Range 40½ East and Range 41 East, MDB&M.

Recognizing that Kern County is the principal county and has full jurisdiction in the matter, the Commission after full and thorough discussion lists its findings & expresses its concern on the following points:

FINDINGS:

1. All of Section 24, ½ of Section 13 and ¼ of Section 12 are vacant or government land.
2. There are four sections plus portions of Section 6 in the proposal.
3. There are 10 registered voters in the area.
4. Assessed valuation of land is \$45,550 and improvements \$27,700.
5. There are 52 property owners (individuals or husband & wife).
6. Indian Wells Valley County Water District also serves City of Ridgecrest.
7. Proposed land use is not known.
8. Area is overlapped by Mojave Water Agency with similar powers and County Service Area 70 which can be given such powers.
9. There seems to be no natural boundaries or features which dictate these political boundaries.

AREAS OF CONCERN:

1. Vacant governmental land would not appear to benefit from annexation in foreseeable future.
2. Assessed valuation of remaining area would not appear to support extension of water system without excessively high taxes, high assessment or subsidy from remainder of district.
3. Proposed land use if water is extended is unknown. Effect on San Bernardino County general plan is unknown. Discussion now must be made only after consideration of general plan of cities or counties concerned.
4. Unless a district is regional in nature, it is the policy of this LAFC not to allow districts to expand beyond the eventual boundaries of the city it serves so that the option of merging, consolidating or creation of subsidiary districts is always open if it lends to governmental efficiency, economy, and joint use resources. Allowing a district to go into an adjacent county may put it forever beyond eventual consolidation with the city. Service can be handled by serving outside of district boundaries with equalizing water rate differential, forming an adjacent CSA improvement zone & contracting with it for such services, or other devices to maintain all options to Kern County, City of Ridgecrest and the District.

Therefore, the San Bernardino County Local Agency Formation Commission requests the Kern County Local Agency Formation Commission to delete the portion in San Bernardino County, or request the proponents to justify the inclusion of San Bernardino County to both Kern and San Bernardino LAFC or to otherwise meet the problems raised by the San Bernardino County Local Agency Formation Commission.

On motion of Commissioner Beckord, duly seconded by Commissioner Lugo and carried unanimously, the Local Agency Formation Commission hereby requests that this information and request be forwarded to Kern County LAFC for their earnest consideration.