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LAFCO
San Bernardino County

Ms. Kathleen Rollings-McDonald
Local Agency Formation Commission
215 North "D" Street, Suite 204
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0490

Dear Kathy:

LAFCO 3108 consists of a service review for the Running Springs Water District (District) pursuant to Government Code Section 56430 and Sphere of Influence Update pursuant to Government Code 56425. The District encompasses approximately 13 square miles generally bordered by section lines on the south and west, a combination of section lines, parcel lines, and the Arrowbear Park Water District boundary on the north, and a combination of section lines and the Arrowbear Park Water District boundary and sphere on the east.

The District is currently authorized to provide water, wastewater, fire and EMS Ambulance Services within the area identified above. The District's existing latent powers include street lighting and trash collection. The Commission staff is recommending that the Commission consider establishing a single sphere of influence for four districts (Running Springs WD, Arrowbear Park County WD, CSA 73 and CSA 79). The Sphere expansion of the Running Springs Water District would be expanded to encompass the Hilltop community, as defined by the Commission, and affirm the balance of the existing sphere. There are two alternative decisions available to the Commission: affirm the existing sphere; or expand the existing sphere to encompass private lands and split parcels) and reduce the sphere in the southern area. The Staff also proposes to modify the service description for the District Fire Protection function by adding "first aid", and affirm the remainder of the functions and service descriptions.

As we have learned from previous sphere and service reviews, the designation of a sphere and retention of existing services, which focuses on a planning boundary, does not by itself cause any modifications to the physical environment. Only when the subsequent step is taken to physically revise the jurisdictional boundary or range of services of a service agency does a potential for physical change in the environment occur.

The effects of the sphere and service review for the District, retain the existing Sphere, expansion and reduction of the Sphere, or have a single sphere as indicated, does not appear to have any potential to alter the existing physical environment in any manner. Affirmation, expansion and reduction of the current Sphere or expansion and reduction to create a single sphere does not have any potential for causing physical changes in the

environment because it is solely a planning boundary. Therefore, I recommend that the Commission find that a Statutory Exemption (as defined in the California Environmental Quality Act, CEQA) applies to LAFCO 3108 under Section 15061 (b) (3) of the State CEQA Guidelines, which states: "A project is exempt from CEQA if the activity is covered by the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects which have the potential for causing significant effect on the environment. Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA." It is my opinion, and recommendation to the Commission, that this circumstance applies to LAFCO 3108.

In this case, creating a single sphere including the District does not alter the existing operations or obligations of the District to the area and does not adversely affect any existing physical facilities. It modifies a planning boundary only. Based on this review of LAFCO 3108 and the pertinent sections of CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines, I conclude that LAFCO 3108 does not constitute a project under CEQA and adoption of the Statutory Exemption and filing of a Notice of Exemption is the most appropriate determination to comply with CEQA for this action. The Commission can approve this review and finding for this action and I recommend that you notice LAFCO 3108 as statutorily exempt from CEQA for the reasons outlined in the State CEQA Guidelines sections cited above. The Commission needs to file a Notice of Exemption (NOE) with the County Clerk to the Board for this action once the action is completed.

A copy of this memorandum and the NOE should be retained in LAFCO's project file to serve as verification of this evaluation and as the CEQA environmental determination record. If you have any questions, please feel free to give me a call.

Sincerely,

Tom Dodson

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