


LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION FOR SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

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DATE: NOVEMBER 13, 2019 
FROM: SAMUEL MARTINEZ, Executive Officer
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TO: LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM # 12 - Update on County Service Area 120 Working Group

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Commission note receipt of the status report and file.

BACKGROUND:

County Service Area 120 (hereafter referred to as CSA 120) was formed on July 1, 2009 as a single purpose agency in order to consolidate the open space conservation management operations of CSA 70 Zones OS-1 and OS-3, districts created to acquire mitigation properties associated with the development in the west valley portion of San Bernardino County. From the outset, CSA 120 experienced financial and operational challenges, including an inability to hold and manage additional mitigation lands, lack of reporting, and an inability to restore the endowment balances for properties where mitigation work has not yet begun. In June 2018, the Commission directed staff to initiate a sphere amendment for CSA 120 with the direction that it be assigned a zero sphere of influence and convene a working group with affected and interested agencies to review the option for a possible reorganization to transfer responsibility for the mitigation lands currently being held and managed by CSA 120.

DISCUSSION:

At the May 8, 2019 hearing, the Commission considered and approved a zero sphere of influence amendment for CSA 120.

Also, a CSA 120 working group was formed that convened on February 14, 2019, June 27, 2019 and most recently on November 7, 2019. Participants in the working group include staffs from the County Special Districts Department (for CSA 120), Inland Empire Utilities Resource Conservation District (IERCD), City of Rancho Cucamonga, City of Fontana, Cucamonga Valley Water District, U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife, California

Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW), San Bernardino County Transportation Authority, and LAFCO.

One of the primary issues being discussed and evaluated relate to the ability to manage the existing habitat effectively at the current level of funding versus the ideal management intended by the mitigation. IERCD is currently establishing a baseline condition on all properties and developing a proposal for DFW in terms of work to be done and cost, including potential supplemental funding.

Other components the working group participants continue to research and discuss relate to access issues to some on the mitigation lands and securing easements to all mitigation properties, identifying other potential funding partners, evaluating a parking system for the Preserve's parking lot, and a discussion with the different stakeholders on a possible joint agreement to manage the habitat for the long term.

CONCLUSION:

The working group members have been diligent in their ongoing efforts to address the issues surrounding CSA 120 to ensure that should a reorganization application be filed with LAFCO in the future, it will be complete and address all of the key project components, especially implementing a sustainable model to manage CSA 120 mitigation properties in perpetuity. Members of the working group continue to meet individually to work on resolving specific issues.

LAFCO staff has scheduled the next CSA 120 working group meeting for May 2020.

SM/MT