

LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION FOR SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

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DATE: FEBRUARY 12, 2020 
FROM: SAMUEL MARTINEZ, Executive Officer
MICHAEL TUERPE, Project Manager
TO: LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

SUBJECT: Agenda Item #9: LAFCO 3231 - Countywide Service Review for
Fire Protection/Emergency Medical Services/Dispatch

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Staff recommends that the Commission take the following actions related to LAFCO 3231:

1. For environmental review, certify that the service review is statutorily exempt from environmental review and direct the Executive Officer to file the Notice of Exemption within five (5) days.
2. Accept and file the Countywide Service Review for Fire Protection/Emergency Medical Services/Dispatch which sets forth the written statements for the six determinations outlined in Government Code Section 56430 made by the Commission.
3. As outlined in the service review presented to the Commission, take the following actions for specific agencies/entities:
 - a) Direct LAFCO staff to continue to monitor the Barstow Fire Protection District and the City of Barstow, and return to the Commission at its September 16, 2020 meeting.
 - b) Direct LAFCO staff to continue to monitor the San Bernardino County Fire Protection District, and return to the Commission at its September 16, 2020 meeting.
4. Adopt LAFCO Resolution No. 3301 reflecting the Commission's determinations and directions as required by Government Code Section 56430 and Commission policy.

BACKGROUND:

The primary objective of this service review is to provide the Commission with recommendations to: (1) update the determinations from previous service reviews, (2) initiate sphere of influence updates where appropriate, and (3) monitor specific agencies where appropriate.

The Executive Summary summarizes the content of the review, identifies key facts found during the review's preparation, and lists recommendations for Commission action. Additionally, staff has identified opportunities for the agencies and the emergency response community at large to consider – these do not have recommendations for Commission action. Furthermore, this service review identifies areas where agencies are providing service outside their boundaries and spheres of influence.

Agency Outreach

For this service review, LAFCO staff reached out to the San Bernardino County Fire Chiefs' Association due to the scale, scope, and reach of fire agencies. The Chiefs' Association formed an advisory group to provide guidance and technical assistance for this review. LAFCO staff and the advisory group convened five times. Their thoughtful feedback helped develop this service review.

LAFCO staff conducted an extensive outreach effort with the agencies addressed in this review, including, but not limited to:

- Briefing to the Fire Chiefs' Association three times.
- *Questionnaire and Survey.* LAFCO requested each fire agency to complete a questionnaire and a confidential online survey; all but one agency completed in full.
- *Working Copy.* Each agency was first provided with a working copy of their respective agency profile for review and input.
- *First Draft.* Each agency and stakeholder was provided with the first draft of the service review for review and comment, followed by a presentation to the Fire Chiefs' Association. LAFCO staff provided responses to comments received on the first draft (Appendix A to this service review).
- *Notice of the LAFCO hearing with Final Draft.* LAFCO provided the notice of the Commission hearing to all agencies, stakeholders, and interested parties, which was also noticed on the LAFCO website. The Final Draft was issued the same day to all parties as well as the Commission.
- *Staff report with Amended Final Draft.* The staff report, outlining recommendations for Commission action, along with the final draft, was provided to all agencies, stakeholders, and interested parties, which is also available on the LAFCO website. The service review attached to this staff report (Attachment #1) includes technical, non-substantive, corrections identified since release of the Final Draft (Attachment #2).

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION:

The Commission's Environmental Consultant, Tom Dodson of Tom Dodson and Associates, has indicated his recommendation that LAFCO 3231 is statutorily exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). This recommendation is based on the finding that the service review is not judged to pose any adverse changes to the physical environment; therefore, the service review is exempt from the requirements of CEQA, as outlined in the State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15061(b)(3). A copy of Mr. Dodson's analysis is included as Attachment #3 to this report.

ADDITIONAL DETERMINATIONS:

1. As required by State Law, notice of the hearing was provided through publication in newspapers of general circulation within the area, the *Big Bear Grizzly*, *Mountain News*, and *San Bernardino Sun*. Individual notice was not provided as allowed under Government Code Section 56157 as such mailing would include more than 1,000 individual notices. As outlined in State Law and Commission Policy, in-lieu of individual notice the notice of hearing publication was provided through an eighth page legal ad.
2. As required by State law, individual notification of the hearing was provided to affected and interested agencies, County departments, and those agencies and individuals requesting mailed notice.
3. The first draft of the service review document was released to all affected agencies on January 7, 2020.
4. The final draft of the service review was released on January 29, 2020 to all parties as well as the Commission and posted on the LAFCO website. Due to the size and scope of the service review, the final draft was released in advance of the staff report to allow for additional time for review and comment.
5. Comments from the public and any affected agency will be reviewed and considered by the Commission in making its determinations.

CONCLUSION:

Staff recommends that the Commission take the actions outlined on page 1 for the Countywide Service Review for Fire Protection/Emergency Medical Services/Dispatch and other actions for continued monitoring.

SM/MT

Attachments:

1. [Countywide Service Review for Fire Protection/Emergency Medical Services/Dispatch](#)
2. [Changes to the Final Draft](#)
3. [Environmental Recommendation from Tom Dodson](#)
4. [Draft Resolution No. 3301](#)