

SUPPLEMENT SPHERE OF INFLUENCE CHANGE

INTRODUCTION: The questions on this form are designed to obtain data about the specific sphere of influence change proposal to allow the Commission, staff and others to adequately assess the project. You may also include any additional information that you believe is pertinent. Use additional sheets where necessary, and/or include any relevant documents.

1. Please provide an identification of the agencies involved in the proposed sphere of influence change(s):

SPHERE EXPANSION

County Service Area 120

(Sphere Establishment)

SPHERE REDUCTION

N/A

2. Provide a narrative description of the following factors of consideration as outlined in Government Code Section 56425. (If additional room for response is necessary, please attach additional sheets to this form.)

The present and planned land uses in the area, including agricultural and open-space lands.

County Service Area 120's (CSA 120) only authorized power is to provide Open Space and Habitat Conservation management services which includes the acquisition, preservation, maintenance, and operation of land to protect unique, sensitive, threatened, or endangered species, or historically significant properties. The proposed Sphere Area (Figure 1) includes, the entirety of the District (Area 1A & 1B), plus unincorporated property and northern most sections of the cities of Upland (Area 2), Rancho Cucamonga (Area 3), Fontana, Rialto, and San Bernardino (Area 4). The 2005 City of Upland General Plan designates areas that fall within the proposed CSA 120 sphere as OS - Open Space, ED - Edison Easement, and Single Family Residential at a density of 2-3 dwelling units/acre. The City of Rancho Cucamonga 2010 General Plan Update has designated areas within the proposed sphere as Flood Control/Utility Corridor, Conservation, Open Space, Hillside Residential @ 0.1 - 2.0 dwelling units/acre, and General Commercial. The City of Fontana in a 2006 revision to their General Plan Land Use Map designates areas within the proposed CSA 120 sphere as OS - Open Space, PUC - Public Utility Corridor, RPC Residential Planned Community, RE - Residential Estates, CG - General Commercial,

and PR – Recreational Facilities. City of Rialto land use designations are primarily Open Space, Open Space Resources, and Open Space Recreation with pockets of Residential according to the Rialto Land Use Policy Plan and Lytle Creek Ranch Specific Plan. Under the City of San Bernardino General Plan Land Uses are Residential @ 1 dwelling unit/acre, Residential @ 3.1 dwelling units/acre, Residential @ 3.5 dwelling units/acre, Industrial, Open Space, and Public Park. The County's General Plan designates the area within CSA 120's proposed sphere (Areas 1A, 1B, 2, 3, and 4) are FW – Floodway, RC – Resource Conservation, RL – Rural Living, OS – Open Space, CN – Neighborhood Commercial, SD – Special Development, CG – General Commercial, Commercial Office, and Single Residential. Likewise, the County's 2007 Lytle Creek Community Plan also establishes land uses within portions of Area 4, which includes RC – Resource conservation, RL – Rural Living, and RS – Single Residential. The County's 2005 Glen Helen Specific Plan designates portions of the unincorporated area in Area 4 as CI – Corridor Industrial, DR – Destination Recreation, FC – Flood control, GCC – Golf Course Community, OSA – Open Space/Active Recreation, OSH – Open Space/Habitat Reserve, OSP – Open Space/Passive Recreation, OS/PS – Open Space/Public Safety, PF – Public Facility, C/TS – Travel Services, C/DE – Commercial/Destination Recreation, and SUA – Special Use Area.

Much of the area included in the proposed sphere is undeveloped land somewhat influenced by the convergence of runoff from local hillsides, creeks and washes indicated by the presence of alluvium material common to floodways. The area is also bi-sected by major utility corridors operated by Southern California Edison and Los Angeles Department of Water and Power.

CSA 120 doesn't have land use authority; planning decisions and area land use designations are left to City and County Planning agencies. Neither does CSA 120 have regulatory authority nor the ability to require mitigation in response environmental impacts associated with projects or developments. The conservation area management service provided by CSA 120 is to be made available to help assure management of any prevalent biotic and cultural resource deemed in need of conservation and protection.

The present and probable need for public facilities and services in the area.

The sphere area identified for CSA 120 as areas 1A & B, 2, 3, and 4 on the map contain both biotic and culturally significant resources that if determined to need protection

can be managed under CSA 120. CSA 120 already manages and holds over 1,200 acres of habitat conservation properties in the region. Establishment of a sphere that encompasses areas represented on the map will provide management continuity for the entire area. Having multiple managing entities oversee conservation properties in the area fragments and lessens the value of wildlife corridors and habitat conservation. CSA 120 would provide a cohesive approach to conservation management throughout the area.

Future development projects both within and around CSA 120 and its sphere may require the set aside of mitigation properties due to environmental impacts. The establishment of the sphere allows for future annexation of properties into CSA 120 for management of the sensitive biotic resources designated for protection.

The present capacity of public facilities and adequacy of public services that the agency to be expanded provides or is authorized to provide.

County Service Area 120 became the successor agency to County Service Area 70, Improvement Zones OS-1 and OS-3 when the District was formed in 2009. The consolidation of these improvement zones under CSA 120 combined conservation management of mitigation properties that were acquired as far back as 1998. The initial habitat conservation property acquired as part of Improvement Zone OS-1 is commonly known as the North Etiwanda Preserve. Since this first 762 acre acquisition, CSA 120 has added 440 acres and now manages over 1,200 acres. The sphere area proposed represents a number of biotic and culturally significant resources found worthy of protection and active management.

The existence of any social or economic communities of interest in the area.

The Alta Loma Riding Club is an equestrian group looking to designate and establish an east-west Front Line Trail that would potentially conflict with current and future management mandates relative to CSA 120 conservation properties. CSA 120 has met with representatives from the equestrian club to work on a solution. It is anticipated that the trails alignment need to bi-sect future conservation properties. The Club is to present a trail alignment for the Front Line Trail so that it can be considered for accommodation as mitigation properties are transferred to CSA 120.

The proposed sphere and annexation area is within the jurisdictional boundary of the Inland Empire Resource Conservation (IERCD). The IERCD has voiced some concern over

the duplication of services provided. The boundary of the IERCD has encompassed both the existing boundary of CSA 120 and its predecessor Improvement Zones since the County formed Improvement Zone OS-1 back in 1998. CSA 120 and the IERCD have worked jointly on education outreach programs and other habitat conservation projects. The combined effort of the two organizations is complimentary to each others in purpose. It is believed that CSA 120 and the IERCD will strengthen their partnership and establish a greater working relationship on conservation matters.

The sphere area proposed also encompasses some land under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Forest Service. The intent for inclusion of the jurisdictional land was to account for the great number of biotic resources located on private property holdings inside the congressional boundary of the National Forest. Exclusion of these Forest areas would not allow CSA 120 to manage, protect or acquire private mitigation lands relative to areas of the National Forest. The northern boundary of CSA 120 in many instances is common with the southern boundary of the National Forest. Conservation properties adjacent to or within the National Forest add an additional buffer and level of protection to sensitive biotic resources. CSA 120 communicates and collaborates with the National Forests Front Country Ranger District on projects that include clean-ups, trail alignment, access, illegal activities, and fire protection which are common to both areas. The sphere and eventual overlay of CSA 120 as a conservation management service compliments the land management efforts implemented in the National Forest. A suitable CSA 120 sphere alternative to the overlay of private property holdings in the National forest was not available without compromising the continuity of CSA 120's eventual boundary.

Northern portions of the cities of Upland, Rancho Cucamonga, Fontana, Rialto, and San Bernardino are included in the proposed CSA 120 sphere.

3. If the proposal includes a city sphere of influence change, provide a written statement of whether or not agreement on the sphere change between the city and county was achieved. In addition, provide a written statement of the elements of agreement (such as, development standards, boundaries, zoning agreements, etc.) (See Government Code Section 56425)

N/A , city sphere areas are to remain intact. This proposal establishes a sphere of influence for CSA 120 which doesn't result in any other existing city boundary or sphere changes.

4. If the proposal includes a special district sphere of influence change, provide a written statement: (a) specifying the function or classes of service provided by the district(s) and (b) specifying the nature, location and extent of the functions or classes of service provided by the district(s). (See Government Code Section 56425(i))

As condition No. 6 of LAFCO Resolution No. 3051 dated February 18, 2009, CSA 120 was authorized as its active power the function and service: Open Space and habitat conservation. Open Space and habitat conservation services include, but not limited to the acquisition preservation, maintenance, and operation of land to protect unique, sensitive, threatened, or endangered species, or historically or culturally significant properties. Any setback or buffer requirements to protect open-space or habitat lands shall be owned by a public agency and maintained by the county service area as to not infringe on the customary husbandry practices of any neighboring commercially productive agricultural, timber or livestock operations. The services are currently provided through the acquisition of mitigation lands which are then placed under conservation easement throughout CSA 120's existing boundary (a map of these land holdings are included with this application).

5. For any sphere of influence amendment either initiated by an agency or individual, or updated as mandated by Government Code Section 56425, the following service review information is required to be addressed in a narrative discussion, and attached to this supplemental form (See Government Code Section 56430):

- a. Growth and population projections for the affected area.

Although a majority of the proposed sphere is primarily undeveloped vacant land with some existing tract developments; it is extremely difficult to project population and growth given the current economic and environmental conditions. The area is primarily rural and influenced by hillside slopes, floodways, major utility and transportation corridors. CSA 120 and its proposed sphere about the National Forest to the North and are somewhat isolated in the foothills where provision of infrastructure for residential development would be difficult. The rare biotic resources found in the area further limit development potential and restrict growth. Historically a number of the development projects within the area have required mitigation for environmental impacts. It is anticipated that the trend of mitigation in the area will continue and reduce both developable acreage and the availability of mitigation properties. These limiting factors will likely reduce development projects and translate into the area having greater environmental conservation value in the future.

- b. Present and planned capacity of public facilities and adequacy of public services, including infrastructure needs or deficiencies.

CSA 120 manages open space and conservation properties and therefore infrastructure and other public services are not required. The need for services is determined by the transfer of mitigation properties to the District. Accompanying each property acquisition are funds earmarked for a level of ongoing protection and management. The reliance on interest earnings from a non wasting endowment has proven to be the biggest challenge to management of conservation properties.

- c. Financial ability of agencies to provide services.

CSA 120 derives most all of its operating funds from its fee schedule and interest earnings from a non wasting endowment. Interest from the endowment trust has funded maintenance and operations on conservation properties in the District since May 17, 1994. Lately interest earnings from the endowment have dropped from a sustained annual historic average of around 4% to below 1%. The District has sought grants and formed partnerships with local groups, educational institutions, and volunteer organizations to offset the reductions in available operating funds. Conservation management work plans are formulated and prioritized annually to coincide with available funds. The District fee schedule is reviewed, adjusted, and approved each year. Each property acquired by the District includes funds for management and operation of the property.

- d. Status of, and opportunities for, shared facilities.

The nature of the service provided by CSA 120 precludes the District from sharing properties acquired for most any purpose other than conservation. CSA 120 is one of a number of Board Governed Districts under San Bernardino County's Special District Department. The affiliation allows access to shared management staff, office space, and other county staff with specializations. Opportunities also exist to leverage efforts with other groups, organizations, and entities with similar purpose, interest, and function. As an example, the conservation education programs under development for CSA 120's North Etiwanda Preserve have been a joint effort with the Inland Empire Resource Conservation District. CSA 120 has also joined forces with the City of Rancho Cucamonga, Cucamonga Valley Water District, and other service organizations on Preservation area clean-ups and maintenance projects.

- e. Accountability for community service needs, including governmental structure and operational efficiencies.

Based on the current boundaries of the district, CSA 120 has an established six member Advisory Commission which includes: two members from recognized environmental groups or professional biologists, a representative of the County Board of Supervisor, a member of the Rancho Cucamonga City Council, a member of the Fontana City Council, and a local land owner. The commission has regular quarterly meetings. The commission provides recommendations and is advisory to the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisor which is the governing body for CSA 120. CSA 120 is an entity governed by the County Board of Supervisors under County Service Area Law (Government Code Section 25210 et seq). The members of the Board of Supervisors are elected officials. The Board of Supervisors review and ratify ordinances, resolutions, policies, procedures and practices of CSA 120. The proposed sphere is to include portions within or adjacent to the cities of Upland, Rialto, and San Bernardino. If territory within these adjoining city areas is annexed into CSA 120, it is anticipated that a representative from each affected city would be added as a member to the advisory commission.

As part of the County's Special Districts Department, CSA 120 has access to a hierarchy of County Departments, staff, and other services needed by the District to function. Smaller Districts like CSA 120 don't commonly have funds for a great number of staff and truly benefit from the resources available through the administrative structure provided under the County Special Districts Department.

The narrative description shall be signed and certified by an official of the agency(s) involved with the sphere of influence review as to the accuracy of the information provided. If necessary, attach copies of documents supporting statements.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the statements furnished above present the data and information required to the best of my ability, and that the facts, statements, and information presented herein are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

DATE 3/13/12



SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT

Jeffrey O. Rigney
PRINTED NAME

Director
TITLE