

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):**

San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District
1630 W. Redlands Blvd., Suite A
P.O. Box 1839
Redlands, CA 92373

2. **Provide a narrative of the following factors of consideration as outlined in Government Code Section 56425.**

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

The present and planned land uses in the area of the SBVWCD represent varying levels and intensities of urban development within unincorporated San Bernardino County as well as portions of the Cities of San Bernardino, Loma Linda, Redlands and Highland. The SBVWCD comprises approximately 50,000 acres (approximately 78 square miles) within San Bernardino County.

Because the SBVWCD's boundaries encompass a majority of the eastern San Bernardino Valley, the area includes a range of County and city General Plan land use designations. The designations allow for varying densities of residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural and open space uses.

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

The present and probable need for the services provided by SBVWCD to sustain the Bunker Hill Basin will continue and expand as the population of this portion of the Valley continues to experience growth. The entire basin area experiences drought conditions, water contamination, and growth in the use of groundwater supply. Water conservation is a need within the entirety of the basin, not just the eastern portion as defined by the boundaries of the SBVWCD.

To address this issue, in December 2011, the SBVWCD agreed to enter into a joint agreement with the San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District (SBVMWD) and the Western Municipal Water District (WMWD) to establish a cooperative partnership among all three agencies to jointly and comprehensively manage groundwater resources within western San Bernardino County. In December 2012 all three districts executed the agreement to memorialize the individual district operational and management responsibilities. The joint agreement results in additional public benefits and a reduction in costs through an efficient division of labor among the cooperating public agencies.

The Wash Area below Alabama street was not historically included in the District Boundary. This area is requested to be included within the SBVWCD's sphere of influence (see Exhibit A – "Potential Sphere of Influence Change"). This requested area will likely have somewhat limited residential or commercial development, but is critical to the proper management of water resources and managing water supply and level. This area will add approximately 2045 acres.

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

As outlined above, in December 2012, the SBVWCD entered into a joint agreement with the SBVMWD and the WMWD to jointly manage groundwater resources within western San Bernardino County. This strategic, comprehensive approach to groundwater management will maximize the agencies' financial and operational resources by dividing responsibilities and sharing resources:

SBVWCD will:

- Lease its recharge basins and other land to WMWD for joint recharge use and development of new water recharge facilities
- Operate and maintain new and existing facilities
- Manage funding and reserves according to the District Reserve Policy, with review and input from WMWD and SBVMWD
- Credit groundwater charge for water pumped by WMWD and SBVWCD against lease payments
- Coordinate with SBVMWD and mining entities for water spreading

WMWD and SBVMWD will:

- Help fund the groundwater enterprise by paying SBVWCD \$400,000 annually (adjusted by the CPI)
- Obtain all permits for new facilities
- Fund repair and replacement of new facilities
- Coordinate operations to minimize interference with mining
- Cooperate with SBVWCD on planning for the Santa Ana River Wash

All agree to:

- Establish and participate in a Joint Operations Committee
- Cooperate on surface water diversions
- Coordinate recharge via BTAC and Regional Conjunctive use Plan
- Pledge existing water rights to the basin and refrain from contesting rights
- Abstain from exporting native water from the basin except via BTAC and Watermaster
- Consolidate prior agreements and give priority to increasing water supplies and recharge of the groundwater

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

The SBVWCD shares a community of interest with the San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District and the Western Municipal Water District as joint partners in managing groundwater resources in Western San Bernardino County.

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

Not applicable

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 provide by the district(s). (See Government Code Section 56425(i))

According to the San Bernardino LAFCO Policy and Procedure Manual, Section 5, the functions of the San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District are listed as follows:

Water Conservation: Appropriation, acquisition and conservation of water and water rights for any useful purpose. Acquisition and construction of dams, reservoirs, canals, conduits, spreading basins, and sinking basin (sic) in order to conserve, store, spread and sink water.

Surveys of Water Supply and Resources: Make surveys and investigation of the water supply and resources of the Water Conservation District.

5. For any sphere of influence amendment either initiated by an agency or individual, or update 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 area.**

SBVWCD provides service to approximately 78 square miles (approximately 50,000 acres) within its current boundaries which primarily support the communities of San Bernardino, Loma Linda, Redlands, Highland and the unincorporated areas of Mentone and islands within cities. The 2010 Census indicates a population of approximately 364,000 residents within these communities. By 2020, the County projects the population to grow to approximately 460,000 residents.

b. **Present and planned capacity of public facilities and adequacy of public services.**

As outlined in Question #2 above, SBVWCD is proposing a comprehensive approach to groundwater management in the Bunker Hill Basin area through the joint resources of SBVWCD, SBVMWD and WMWD. This strategy offers a collaborative partnership to provide superior, long-term stewardship of groundwater resources in western San Bernardino County.

c. **Financial ability of agencies to provide services.**

The primary funding mechanisms for the SBVWCD are from groundwater charges, mining royalties, interest earnings, and a share of the 1% general ad valorem levy. A joint agreement executed in December 2012 provides SBVWCD with \$350,000 in annual

funding from the SBVMWD and WMWD to help support groundwater enterprise operations. The joint agreement will result in an overall reduction in costs through an efficient division of labor and resources among the three participating agencies.

d. Status of, and opportunities for, shared services.

The joint agreement between SBVWCD, SBVMWD and the WMWD will provide a partnership to manage the entirety of the Bunker Hill Basin. The agreement realizes an efficient division of labor and shared funding among public agencies to provide comprehensive, cost-effective groundwater management in the San Bernardino Valley.

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

The District is governed by a five member Board of Directors, elected within divisions. Currently the District has seven seated Board Members because the District in October 2012 acted to reduce their number of elected representatives in accordance with the requirements of SB-235. Each member of the Board is required to be a registered voter within his/her division of the District. The Board of Directors is elected to four-year terms.

Implementation of the joint operating and management agreement between SBVWCD, SBVMWD and WMWD will result in additional opportunities for public input and increased transparency through joint Board of Directors' meetings and the establishment of a Joint Operations Committee.

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 8/7/13


SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT

Daniel Cozad
PRINTED NAME

General Manager
TITLE