

NOTICE OF COMMISSION HEARING

LAFCO 3200 – REORGANIZATION TO INCLUDE ANNEXATION TO THE SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT, ITS SOUTH DESERT SERVICE ZONE, AND ITS SERVICE ZONE FP-5, FORMATION OF SERVICE ZONE 29 PALMS RETIREMENT, AND THE DIVESTITURE OF THE FIRE FUNCTION FROM TWENTYNINE PALMS WATER DISTRICT

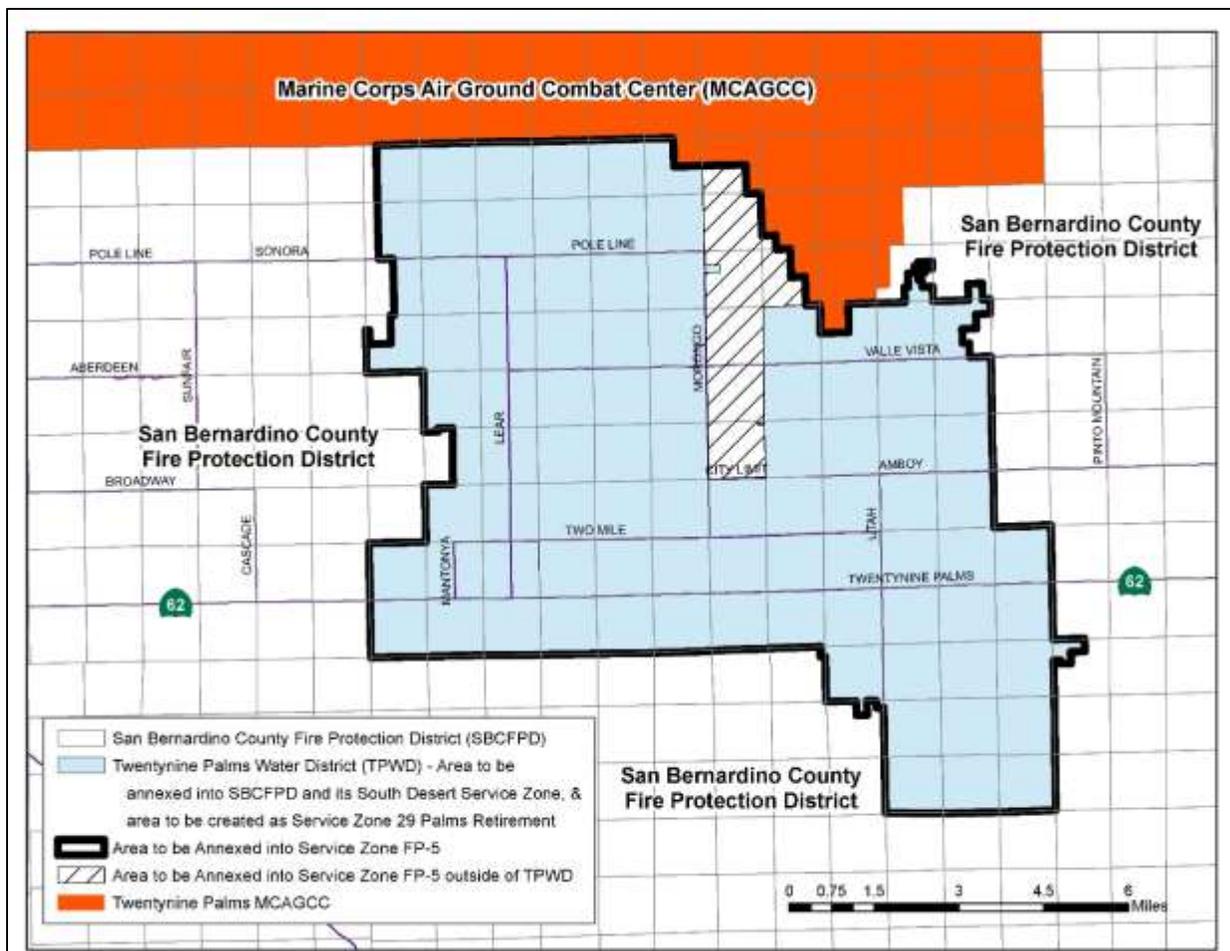
This Notice is to advise you that the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) will be considering a proposal for annexation into the San Bernardino County Fire Protection District (hereafter SBCFPD or County Fire) at its **February 17, 2016** hearing which includes property which you own and/or where you reside within the Twentynine Palms Water District (hereafter Water District) and/or within the area proposed for annexation into SBCFPD Service Zone FP-5. The hearing is scheduled to begin at 9:00 a.m. in the City of San Bernardino City Council Chambers located at 300 North “D” Street, San Bernardino. Below is a summary of the referenced proposal.

TITLE: LAFCO 3200 – Reorganization to include Annexation to the San Bernardino County Fire Protection District, its South Desert Service Zone, and its Service Zone FP-5, Formation of Service Zone 29 Palms Retirement, and the divestiture of the fire function from Twentynine Palms Water District

AREA: Area 1 of the reorganization includes the entirety of the Water District’s boundary encompassing approximately 56,919 acres for annexation into County Fire and its South Desert Service Zone as well as for the formation of Service Zone 29 Palms Retirement. In addition, the proposal includes annexation of Area 2 to County Fire’s Service Zone FP-5 which includes the area of the Water District (56,919+/- acres) and the area outside of the Water District generally identified as the peninsula of land between Morongo Road and the City of Twentynine Palms (along Mesquite Springs Road) and south of the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center (3,833+/- acres), for a total of approximately 60,752 acres.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the proposal is to annex the entirety of the Water District’s boundary to the SBCFPD and its South Desert Service Zone. This change of organization will include the transfer of all the Water District’s fire responsibilities including the transfer of Fire Department employees, assets, obligations, and liabilities to the SBCFPD and its related service zone. The approval of the proposed reorganization will also include the formation of Service Zone 29 Palms Retirement for the purpose of isolating the funding mechanism to retire the Water District’s PERS retirement unfunded liability for its fire employees. The approval of the proposed reorganization will also include the annexation into the SBCFPD Service Zone FP-5, which is drawn to include the service area of the Twentynine Palms community defined as the entirety of the Water District, including the area that is already in County Fire’s existing service area located between Morongo Road and the City of Twentynine Palms (along Mesquite Springs Road) and south of the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center (see hatched area on the map below). The annexation to Service Zone FP-5 includes a special tax for funding of fire protection and emergency medical response services. This special tax includes an annual inflationary rate of up to a maximum 3% increase. The current rate for FP-5 is \$143.92 per parcel for Fiscal Year 2015-16.

A map of the reorganization area is shown below:



The Board of Directors of the Twentynine Palms Water District and the Board of Directors of the San Bernardino County Fire Protection District initiated the reorganization proposal by adoption of resolutions of application. The reason for this proposal, as outlined in these resolutions, is to: (1) Maintain the existing levels of services while providing for a sustainable revenue source to provide for said service within the Twentynine Palms community; (2) Permit the Twentynine Palms Water District and the SBCFPD to streamline fire protection services to the proposal area so as to provide for orderly growth and development within the Twentynine Palms community; and, (3) Permit all affected agencies to provide the scope of municipal services to the proposal area.

If you have any questions regarding the reorganization process or this notice, please contact the LAFCO staff at (909) 388-0480, at our mailing address, 215 North D Street Suite 204, San Bernardino, CA 92415-0490, or by email at lafco@lafco.sbcounty.gov. The staff report for this item will be available for review on the LAFCO Website (www.sbclafco.org) at approximately 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, February 10, 2016.

For background information and/or questions on the services to be provided by County Fire, please contact South Desert Division Chief John Chamberlin at (760) 365-3335 or by mail at 6942 Airway Avenue, Suite A, Yucca Valley, CA 92284.

For background information on the divestiture of the Water District's fire function and the transfer of its fire service, please contact Ray Kolisz, General Manager, Twentynine Palms Water District at (760) 367-7546 or by mail at 72401 Hatch Road, Twentynine Palms, CA 92277.

LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION



KATHLEEN ROLLINGS-McDONALD
Executive Officer

Dated January 26, 2016