

# LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION FOR SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

215 North D Street, Suite 204, San Bernardino, CA 92415-0490  
(909) 383-9900 • Fax (909) 383-9901  
E-MAIL: [lafco@lafco.sbcounty.gov](mailto:lafco@lafco.sbcounty.gov)  
[www.sbclafco.org](http://www.sbclafco.org)

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**DATE:** NOVEMBER 7, 2012

**FROM:** KATHLEEN ROLLINGS-McDONALD, Executive Officer

**TO:** LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION



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**SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM #9 – CONTINUED CONSIDERATION OF MOUNTAIN  
REGION REVIEW OF ROAD AND SNOW REMOVAL SERVICES AND  
RELATED SERVICE REVIEWS AND SPHERE OF INFLUENCE UPDATES**

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## **STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends that the Commission continue the Mountain Region Service Review of Road and Snow Removal Services which includes consideration of LAFCO 3122 – County Service Area 69; LAFCO 3119 – County Service Area 59, and LAFCO 3121 – County Service Area 68, along with the 22 Zones of CSA 70 providing road and snow removal services and Zone R-1 of CSA 79 (Green Valley Lake) to the February 20, 2013 hearing.

## **BACKGROUND:**

The consideration of the service review for road maintenance and snow removal for the Mountain Region in its entirety has been continued for the past two years. The following provides an outline of the current status of this regional service review/sphere of influence update process.

At the December 2010 Commission hearing, the discussion of the regional provision of road and snow removal services for the Mountain Region was opened. At that hearing concerns and issues identified by LAFCO staff in general for the Mountain Region and in particular for the Crest Forest and Lake Arrowhead communities were reviewed. At that hearing, the staff's position was outlined as being that a single County Service Area (CSA), identified as CSA 68, would be expanded to encompass the entire Mountain Region to provide for a more comprehensive approach to service administration. This hearing was continued to the March 2011 hearing at which time information was provided to the Commission outlining concerns from the County Special Districts Department regarding the staff's position and additional questions which needed to be addressed by

the County Auditor/Controller. At the March hearing this review was continued to the June 15, 2011 hearing to be heard in conjunction with the anticipated final review for the Bear Valley Community of the Mountains. At the June hearing the matter was again continued to allow for completion of the needed information from County Departments and to receive the final determinations on special tax elections affecting CSA 59 and CSA 68 for new special taxes to fund road maintenance activities. The matter was scheduled for final consideration of the entire Mountain region on the September 28, 2011 hearing agenda.

On September 14, 2011, LAFCO staff received a request from Commissioner and Second District Supervisor Rutherford that the matter be continued to at least the February 15, 2012 hearing to allow for completion of the special tax election process associated with CSA 68 (included as a part of Attachment #1). In addition, the information needed from the County Auditor/Controller and Special District Department regarding audits and costs for operation were not yet complete as the adoption of the final budgets had not taken place. At that time the matter was continued to the February 15, 2012 hearing and again to this hearing.

As reported at the February 2012 hearing, questions regarding elections for special taxes to support road maintenance services and policies for these actions for the future had arisen. The County Administrative Office and Special Districts Department were looking into how these special tax election items will be handled in the future. It was identified to LAFCO staff that until the election matter was resolved, the County would not move forward with the special tax election for CSA 68 related to funding necessary road improvements. The determination on this tax matter is important to the overall discussion because CSA 68 is identified as the staff's recommended entity for expansion to encompass a single comprehensive County Service Area to provide road maintenance and snow removal services in the Mountain Region.

However, staff now understands that a new policy related to special tax elections will not be adopted by the County, in its place a standard operational practice will be utilized. As for the special tax election for CSA 68, that is currently being prepared for presentation to the registered voters in the district. In consultation with the staff of the County Special Districts Department, the materials needed to update the financial data for this regional service review will be provided, information on the new methodology for audit apportionment will be provided, and new information on the methodology for the calculation of general Special District Administrative costs to be apportioned to each district will be provided to LAFCO staff for its analysis. The receipt of this information is necessary to complete this review; therefore, staff is recommending that this matter be continued to the February 20, 2013 hearing.

### **CONCLUSION:**

For the Mountain Region Review of Road Maintenance and Snow Removal services, staff is recommending that the matter be continued to the February 20, 2013 hearing to allow for staff to evaluate the information to be provided on the standard practice for the

conduct of elections for special taxes, the methodology on the apportionment of audit and County Special District Department administrative costs and to allow staff time to analyze the new financial data for Fiscal Year 2012-13.

KRM/

Attachments:

- 1 – [February 12, 2012 Staff Report for the Mountain Region Road Maintenance and Snow Removal Service Review](#)
- 2 – [September 28, 2011 Hearing Staff Report for the Mountain Region Road Maintenance and Snow Removal Services](#)