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San Bernardino County  
APR 16 2013

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Special Districts Department

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TO: KATHLEEN ROLLINGS-McDONALD, Executive Officer  
Local Agency Formation Commission

Information presented to the Commission during  
the 4-17-13 LAFCO hearing.

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**SUBJECT: MOUNTAIN REGION REVIEW OF ROAD AND SNOW REMOVAL SERVICES**

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Special Districts Department (SDD) has reviewed the Local Agency Commission (LAFCo) staff report for the Mountain Region Review of Road and Snow Removal Services and our department agrees with both options as presented, which are:

- 1) Continue with the reorganization which will create two county service areas and multiple zones, specific to the mountain region or
- 2) Retain the status quo, which will continue with multiple county service areas and zones to provide road and snow removal services.

We believe that road services are being effectively provided under the current structure. So, the question is, are there additional advantages to reorganization or is it change for the sake of change? After a thorough review by staff and meetings with LAFCo staff, we believe there are advantages, albeit not as many as first presented. The main advantage would be instead of multiple county services areas and multiple zones under one countywide county service area, there would be only two county service areas specific to the mountains with multiple zones under them. Mountain road maintenance is different than anywhere else in the County, specifically due to snow removal, flooding, severe freeze/thaw, narrow roads and line of sight issues. Therefore, it makes sense for these county service areas and zones to be grouped together so that common issues can be addressed.

As is stated in the LAFCo report, SDD is philosophically in agreement with the reorganization. Therefore, with the following conditions, SDD will support the LAFCo staff recommendation of option #1:

- The reorganization is supported by the property owners/voters of the effected county service areas and zones;
- The reorganization cost to the county service areas and zones is kept to an absolute minimum;
- Equalization of charges is not part of this recommendation and that after the reorganization, all funding sources will remain the same (no sharing of property taxes); and
- Standardization of services is not part of this recommendation. County service areas and zones are formed to provide services unique to the circumstances and desires of individual neighborhoods and communities.

As always, we appreciate the thoroughness of LAFCo's staff in preparing this report and appreciate the time invested by both departments. Although it did take an extended amount of time, in the end we believe both departments were able to better understand the other's positions and concerns and now have a plan that both can support.

cc: Gregory C. Devereaux, Chief Executive Officer