

NOTICE OF PROTEST HEARING

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

Notice is hereby given that a Protest Hearing will be held by the Executive Officer of the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) for San Bernardino County. The hearing will be held at the San Bernardino County Government Center, Joshua Room, 385 North Arrowhead Avenue, San Bernardino, California, on **MONDAY, APRIL 25, 2016 at 1:00 p.m.**, to hear and receive any oral or written protests, objections, or evidence which are made, presented, or filed regarding LAFCO 3200.

The purpose of the reorganization is to change responsibility for provision of fire and emergency medical response services within the Twentynine Palms service territory from the Twentynine Palms Water District to the San Bernardino County Fire Protection District (County Fire). The terms and conditions for this reorganization are set forth in LAFCO Resolution 3216, adopted by the Commission on February 17, 2016, and is available for review in the LAFCO office and on our website at: <http://www.sbclafco.org/Proposals/ProposalsAvailable.aspx>. There are two defined areas within the proposed reorganization territory (see map below):

- Area 1 includes the entirety of the Water District's boundary (approximately 56,919 acres) which is proposed for annexation into County Fire and its South Desert Service Zone.
- Area 2 includes annexation of the Water District's boundary as defined above and the approximately 3,980 acre area outside the Water District boundary (generally described as the peninsula of land between Morongo Road and the City of Twentynine Palms, south of the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center) into County Fire Service Zone FP-5. This area outside the Water District boundary is currently served by County Fire and its South Desert Service Zone but is proposed for inclusion within Service Zone FP-5 to address financing to capture the service delivery area in its entirety.

As a landowner in the affected area, you have been individually notified of the Protest Hearing because the reorganization includes annexation into the County Fire's FP-5 Service Zone which is a special tax zone for funding fire protection and emergency medical response services. The current special tax for property within the FP-5 Zone is \$143.92 per parcel for Fiscal Year 2015-16. The tax includes an annual inflationary factor (up to a maximum of 3%). If the maximum 3% increase is applied for FY 2016-17, the annual tax will be \$148.24 per assessed parcel.

If the reorganization is approved, the current special tax imposed on landowners within the boundaries of the Twentynine Palms Water District, authorized through Ordinance #89, will be voided for FY 2016-17 and beyond.

HOW TO FILE A PROTEST:

Any registered voter or owner of land within the territory proposed to be reorganized may file an official protest. **All protest must be made in writing and submitted to the LAFCO office prior to the conclusion of the Protest Hearing. The written protest must be signed and dated during the official 30-day protest period, which begins on March 24, 2016 and ends on April 25, 2016 at the close of the Protest Hearing.** Any protest without a date, bearing a date prior to March 24, 2016 or submitted after the conclusion of the Protest Hearing, shall be disregarded for purposes of determining the value of any written protests. Protest cannot be accepted by fax or email. **Protests can be submitted or mailed to the LAFCO office, 215 North D Street, Ste. 204, San Bernardino, CA 92415-0490** or submitted at the Protest Hearing at the San Bernardino County Government Center, Joshua Room, 385 North Arrowhead Avenue, San Bernardino, California, on April 25, 2016 at 1:00 p.m.

HOW TO OBTAIN A PROTEST FORM:

There are two protest forms – one for registered voters and one for landowners:

Protest submitted by a landowner must include the name of landowner, the address of the land owned within the proposal and the Assessor Parcel Number. The form for landowner protest is available from the LAFCO website, accessed from the homepage.

Protest submitted by registered voters must include the name of the voter, signature and address as they appear on the affidavit of voter registration. The form for registered voter protest is available from the LAFCO website, accessed from the homepage.

HOW PROTEST IS EVALUATED:

- (1) **Terminate** the reorganization if protest is received from 50% or more of the registered voters within the affected area.
- (2) **Call an election** if protest is received by at least 25% but less than 50% of the registered voters, or if 25% to 100% of the number of landowners – who own at least 25% of the total land value – submit written protest. The voters (whether they own land or not) would then decide the issue by majority vote in a special election.
- (3) **Approve** the reorganization without an election if written protest is received from less than 25% of the registered voters and less than 25% of the landowners (owning less than 25% of the land value).

If you have any questions regarding this Notice, please contact the LAFCO office at (909) 388-0480 or by email at: lafco@lafco.sbcounty.gov

Dated: March 24, 2016



LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION
KATHLEEN ROLLINGS-McDONALD, Executive Officer

