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TO: MEMBERS, FORMATION COMMISSION

FROM: DAVID CHURCH, AICP, EXECUTIVE OFFICER *(DC)*

DATE: SEPTEMBER 18, 2014

SUBJECT: SPHERE OF INFLUENCE/MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW UPDATE - SPECIAL DISTRICTS

Recommendation. It is respectfully recommended that the Commission receive and file this report.

Summary. This status report is to provide the Commission and public with information regarding the Special Districts of Garden Farms Community Water District, Port San Luis Harbor District, Santa Margarita Fire Protection District, Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District, and the Upper Salinas/Las Tablas Resource Conservation District Sphere of Influences and Municipal Service Reviews Update. The community of Cayucos (Cayucos Fire Protection District, Cayucos Sanitary District, and CSA 10) will be covered in a separate update. The Special Districts SOI/MSR Update is consistent with LAFCO's work plan adopted by the Commission. LAFCO Staff has been working on an Administrative Draft of the MSR that the respective District staffs are currently reviewing and commenting on. These comments should be returned in the coming weeks with a Public Review Draft released date in early October.

Background. The preparation of a Municipal Service Review is an information driven activity. LAFCO staff has gathered information and has reviewed and analyzed the data. The MSR along with the analysis and determinations called for by the Government Code is being prepared and will be used to form the Sphere of Influence Update. Staff does not anticipate changes to the Sphere of Influence for any of the Special Districts. The Service Review Factors required by the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Act are shown at the right.

SERVICE REVIEW FACTORS

- 1. Growth and Population**
- 2. Disadvantaged
Unincorporated Communities**
- 3. Present - Planned Capacity of
Public Facilities**
- 4. Financial Services**
- 5. Shared Facilities**
- 6. Accountability**
- 7. Other Matters**

Table 1: Special Districts and Recommendations

Special District	Active Powers
Garden Farms Community Water District	Water
Port San Luis Harbor District	Marine Related Services, Public Safety, Water, Wastewater, Recreation, Public Lands and Commercial Fisheries
Santa Margarita Fire Protection District	Emergency Medical Support and Fire Protection
Coastal San Luis Obispo Resource Conservation District	Soil, Water and Habitat Conservation and Restoration
Upper Salinas/Las Tablas Resource Conservation District	Soil, Water and Habitat Conservation and Restoration

Garden Farms Community Water District. The Garden Farms Community Water District was formed by election in 1955 for the purpose of purchasing the existing water system being operated by a Mutual Water Company. The Water District currently provides water service only. A five-member elected Board of Directors manages district affairs.

The District serves approximately 113 water connections from its system consisting of three wells and a 225,000- gallon storage tank. A total water entitlement is 93 acre-feet. Water quality is of concern, given the shallow groundwater and soil types that indicate greater potential for septic tank failure. The County’s Integrated Regional Water Management Plan estimates the water demand for Garden Farms as 48 acre-feet in the year 2010 to a projected 93 acre-feet by 2035. The District has reserves to upgrade the facilities and schedules regular maintenance of infrastructure as needed. These upgrades will improve the existing system only. Any significant increase in demand will require expansion of the delivery system. The District’s water supply is derived from the lower reaches of the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin derived from the Atascadero sub-basin.

Port San Luis Harbor District. The Port San Luis Harbor was formed by petition and election in 1954 to improve, develop, operate and maintain the harbor located in the San Luis Bay. The Harbor Area is about 40 acres of land with 100 acres of submerged land. Total District land holdings are approximately 106 acres, plus an additional tidelands grant of approximately 8,400 acres.

Since the Master Plan was last updated (2007), the trailer park on Harbor Terrace has been closed and the District is currently engaged in the entitlement process for a full service campground on Harbor Terrace, while maintaining the boat and gear storage and other District uses currently on site.

A 1968 agreement between the Harbor District and the Avila Beach Community

Services District (ABCSD) entitles the Harbor District to 35% of the capacity of the waste water treatment plant in Avila Beach. This entitlement comes with an obligation to fund 35% of related capital improvements. Two issues may materially affect the District's budget in coming years:

The ABCSD is seeking a rate increase from its customers which, if approved, will increase the funds available to the ABCSD for capital projects and, by extension, increase the District's obligation to fund its share.

Santa Margarita Fire Protection District. The Santa Margarita Fire Protection District was formed by petition and Board of Supervisors resolution in 1921. The District was inactive or operating at minimal service levels between 1925 and 1949. Since 1949 the District has provided volunteer fire protection to District residents. A three member Board of Directors manages District affairs. The District is an all-volunteer fire Department that includes 14 volunteer firefighters.

Fire flows and water supply are generally adequate. Upgrades such as a new water tank will improve fire flows throughout the town. The District has automatic and mutual aid agreement with CALFIRE. The present response capability of the District appears adequate for the town of Santa Margarita and surrounding area at its current population and geographic size. Future growth of the Santa Margarita Ranch could involve the District responding to an unknown increased number of emergency situations.

Coastal San Luis Obispo Resource Conservation District (CSLRCD). The CSLRCD is responsible for local resource conservation work within its boundaries. The Directors of the Coastal San Luis RCD are elected by District voters or appointed by the County Board of Supervisors. The RCD works with private individuals, local and state government and other environmental organizations to meet their mission. The Coastal San Luis RCD provides technical experts in-house and through a partnership with the Natural Resource Conservation Service to support planning, design and implementation of natural resource conservation projects. Projects cover stormwater management, agricultural conservation, permit streamlining, watershed planning, habitat restoration and education.

The CSLRCD serves a population of approximately 150,000, out of a County population of about 269,000 people. That means 55% of residents live within the District boundaries, most of which are within the urban lines of Cities and CSDs.

Upper Salinas/Las Tablas Resource Conservation District. Formed by landowner initiative in 1951 pursuant to California Public Resources Code 5800. The US-LT Resource Conservation District (RCD) is a local non-regulatory organization whose mission is to promote responsible watershed management through voluntary community stewardship and technical assistance. It specializes in services and programs toward Northern San Luis Obispo County environments, which have historically been focused on local agriculture. It helps producers save rich, native topsoil and clean water. The

US-LT RCD covers a total of 1,503,008, acres in northern San Luis Obispo and southern Monterey Counties.

The District has been involved in the North County Paso Robles Groundwater Basin issues and solutions working with the County, landowners, and the various Committees that have formed. Key programs that were developed (or are in progress) in the past year include the development of www.slowatershedproject.org and the Ag Water Offset Program (for the Paso Robles Basin). The watershed study was incorporated into the latest Integrated Regional Water Management Plan.