

EL DORADO LAFCO

LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

AGENDA OF FEBRUARY 27, 2013

REGULAR MEETING

TO: Ron Briggs, Chair, and
Members of the El Dorado County Local Agency Formation
Commission

FROM: José C. Henríquez, Executive Officer

AGENDA ITEM #8: PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER AND ADOPT THE
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AND THE SOUTH TAHOE
PUBLIC UTILITIES DISTRICT MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW
AND SPHERE OF INFLUENCE STUDY (LAFCO PROJECT
NO. 2012-01)

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Commission:

1. Receive and discuss the information related to the municipal services review and sphere of influence update for South Tahoe Public Utilities District;
2. Open the public hearing on this matter;
3. Accept statutory exemption §15061(b)(3) from environmental review as the appropriate environmental review;
4. Adopt Resolution L-2013-05, adopting the municipal service review and sphere of influence update for the South Tahoe Public Utilities District; and
5. Direct staff to complete the necessary filings and transmittals as required by law.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDED ACTION

The municipal service review (MSR) is required by State Law to serve as a guidance document for any future boundary changes to the South Tahoe Public Utilities District (STPUD). State Law also requires that an MSR for an agency be performed before the Commission can update a sphere of influence (SOI). The Commission opened the public comment period on the Draft MSR/SOI at the August 22, 2012 Commission meeting. Comments from STPUD staff were received and incorporated as appropriate. No comments were received from the public. The Final MSR and affirmation of the current SOI is now returned to the Commission for final adoption.

BACKGROUND

MSRs are required by state law to serve as a guidance document for future boundary changes and as a precursor to SOI updates. This MSR analyzes STPUD's ability to provide customers with water and wastewater services within its service area and will assist the Commission and its staff when considering actions that will affect STPUD.

The MSR was prepared to meet the requirements and standards of the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 (CKH). The fundamental role of the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) is to implement the CKH Act (found in Government Code §56000, et seq.), consistent with local conditions and circumstances. LAFCO's decisions are guided by the CKH Act.

District Profile

The South Tahoe Public Utility District was formed in 1950 to provide wastewater services in the south Tahoe Basin. In mid-1970, the District began providing retail potable water through the acquisition of small private and mutual water companies. STPUD's service area is approximately 42 square miles with a LAFCO-estimated 2010 population of 30,000 residents.

STPUD is empowered to provide water, wastewater and lighting and landscape services, the latter being a "billable" service only that the District is not actively providing. STPUD provides treated water to nearly 14,660 residential and commercial customers and has about 17,000 wastewater connections. The challenges experienced by STPUD have involved infrastructure replacement and an MTBE contamination of its supply over a decade ago. The District has had stable management for years with little turnover.

Summary of MSR/SOI findings

Throughout the analysis portions of the report, LAFCO staff did not identify any substantial areas for improvement or current issues faced by the District that needed to be addressed or resolved as a part of this review. The MSR found that STPUD is adequately providing services to its customers, planning for future water supply options and addressing current infrastructure needs.

One of the most challenging aspects of the MSR is a new requirement for LAFCO to identify "disadvantaged communities" (DACs) for districts that provide certain services, including water and wastewater. This MSR was the subject trial for new research tools to determine the communities that met the criteria for "disadvantaged" found in both the Government Code and the Water Code. While the DACs were not identified at the neighborhood level, it was possible to identify their general location within STPUD's service area. LAFCO staff's analysis can be found in the new MSR Determinations section #2. Staff does not recommend amending STPUD's SOI based on these findings.

Attachments:

Attachment A: Final South Tahoe Public Utility District Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Update (LAFCO Project #2012-01)

Attachment B: LAFCO Resolution L-2013-05