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March 17, 2010

José C Henriquez, Executive Officer
El Dorado LAFCO
550 Main Street, Suite E
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Subject: Draft Municipal Services Review and Sphere of Influence Study for County Service Area #2

José,

The Agenda for the March 24, 2010 meeting of the El Dorado Local Agency Formation Commission has been received. Department of Transportation staff has comments on Item #2D, regarding the Draft Municipal Services Review and Sphere of Influence Study for County Service Area #2.

Administration of County Service Areas #2, #5 and #9 and the zones of benefit within them is currently under the Department of Transportation. This responsibility has been with various County Department through the years, from the Office of the CAO, to the Department of Transportation, to the Department of General Services, and back to this Department as of May, 2005.

As described in the draft study, County Service Area (CSA) #2 was established by the County Board of Supervisors in 1963 for the purpose of providing road improvements and road drainage improvements, with additional territory annexed in 1967 and 1971. The 1963 and 1967 actions were made by the County Board of Supervisors prior to the establishment of Local Agency Formation Commissions (LACFOs) by the State of California. The draft Municipal Services Review correctly notes that no changes have occurred to CSA #2 boundaries since the 1971 annexation.

Department of Transportation notes that CSA #2 lies fully within the boundaries of CSA #9.

County Service Area #9 was formed by LAFCO on recommendation of the County Board of Supervisors in 1983 after public comment received in response to the Board's proposal to add services to CSA #7, which provides funding for ambulance service on the Western Slope of El Dorado County. The services included: road improvement and maintenance, drainage easement improvement and maintenance, public cemetery services, and parks, recreation and parkway facilities and services.

Public comment was registered against the combining of emergency healthcare services with other, non-health related services within one County Service Area. In response, the Board of Supervisors instructed LAFCO to initiate proceedings to form a new CSA for the proposed additional services, with the exact boundaries of CSA #7 and the LAFCO fees to be waived. The new CSA would not receive direct funding, but would provide for the establishment of individual zones of benefit ("improvement districts"), which would then fund specific services.

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The petition to form CSA #9, LAFCO file F-83-01 includes the following description:

“The boundary of County Service Area Number 9 is to be identical to and co-terminus with the boundary of County Service Area Number 7 ... SAVING AND EXCEPTING THEREFROM, all areas within the boundary of the City of Placerville.”

The formation was included in the Agenda for the April 7, 1983 Regular Meeting of the El Dorado County LAFCO. Discussion makes reference to Government Code that “automatically excludes the City of Placerville since cities already provide the same services,” and notes that the spheres of influence would therefore, logically be identical.

The existence of CSA #2 was apparently somehow overlooked. Had it not been, one of the following actions might have been proposed:

- exclusion of CSA #2 from CSA #9, as was done with the City of Placerville, or
- reorganization of CSA #2 to encompass the same boundary description as CSA #7, excluding the City of Placerville, and adding the other additional services to the purpose of CSA #2.

The overlap of boundaries and duplication of some of the empowered services came to light during the processing of a property owner’s request to annex territory to the Arrowbee Zone of Benefit in CSA #2 during the 2004/2005 fiscal year. Department of Transportation staff received direction from County Counsel to work with the Local Agency Formation Commission to address and correct the situation.

In the Municipal Services Review 2007 Response regarding road improvement and maintenance services, the fact was addressed that the boundaries of CSA #2 lie fully within the territory described for CSA #9, and that the road improvement and maintenance services are empowered under both County Service Areas. A recommendation was made the consolidation of the two into a single County Service Area may allow greater efficiency for the administration of funds.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Municipal Services Review and perhaps to shed some light on the Sphere of Influence of County Service Area #2. Should you have any questions regarding this matter, you may contact me directly at (530)642-4909, Michele Smith at (530) 642-4937 or Elizabeth Zangari at (530)642-4954.

Sincerely,



Tom Celio,
Deputy Director,
Maintenance and Operations

C: James W. Ware, P. E.
CSA Zone of Benefit Administration

TC:esz