

EL DORADO LAFCO

LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

AGENDA OF AUGUST 22, 2012

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 #4G: OPEN THE PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR THE DRAFT
MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW AND SPHERE OF
INFLUENCE STUDY FOR THE SOUTH TAHOE PUBLIC
UTILITY DISTRICT**

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Commission:

1. Receive the Draft Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Study for the South Tahoe Public Utility District and open the Public Hearing to receive comments; and
2. Continue the Public Hearing until the September 26, 2012 meeting to allow sufficient time and opportunity for the South Tahoe Public Utility District governing board and the public to review and comment on the Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Study. Staff will return this item in September for final action and adoption.

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 Utility District (STPUD). State Law also requires that an MSR be performed before the Commission can update an agency's sphere of influence. An administrative draft of this document was distributed to STPUD staff for review. All comments have been received and incorporated as appropriate.

BACKGROUND

This study analyzes the agency's ability to provide water and wastewater services within its service area. The MSR was prepared to meet the requirements and standards of the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 (CKH). The Service Review was prepared using the Service Review Guidelines prepared by the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR).

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. This MSR will assist the Commission and its staff when considering actions that will affect the STPUD. Specifically, the MSR provided agency analysis based upon the seven factors of analysis contained in OPR's Service Review Guidelines referenced above:

1. Growth and population projections for the affected area.
2. The location and characteristics of any disadvantaged unincorporated communities within or contiguous to the sphere of influence.
3. Present and planned capacity of public facilities, adequacy of public services and infrastructure needs or deficiencies related to sewers, municipal and industrial water, and structural fire protection in any disadvantaged, unincorporated communities within or contiguous to the sphere of influence.
4. Financial ability of agencies to provide services.
5. Status of, and opportunities for, shared facilities.
6. Accountability for community service needs, including governmental structure and operational efficiencies.
7. The potential effect of agency services on agricultural and open space lands.

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. The District's sphere of influence encompasses two "holes" areas within the District's service area.

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 District exports treated wastewater to Alpine County for agricultural irrigation and as a source of water for fire suppression. 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.

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.

Attachment:

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