Spheres of Influence And Municipal Service Reviews

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Spheres of Influence

- Plan for the probable future boundaries of one agency: a city or district

- Requirements for Each SOI:
  - Resolution and Map
  - Four determinations by LAFCO
  - Additional local elements based on policies

- Coordinate services & plans
- Resolve turf issues
- Any person or agency may apply
- Subject to CEQA
SOI Program Requirements

• LAFCO must prepare for each agency and update at least every five years
• LAFCO must make determinations
• LAFCO must prepare service review (MSR) as a prerequisite to SOI review
• Annexations must be consistent with SOI
Minimum Determinations
Section 56425 (e)

- Present and Planned Land Uses
  - Including agriculture and open space uses
- Present and Probable Need for Public Facilities and Services
- Present Facilities Capacity & Service Adequacy
- Existence of Social & Economic Communities
Fenwick

THAT SIDE OF THE LINE IS YOUR SPHERE OF INFLUENCE.... THIS SIDE OF THE LINE IS MY SPHERE OF INFLUENCE!
City-County SOI Agreements

• Cities must meet with County 30 days prior to submitting SOI amendment to LAFCO
• Explore Agreement
  – Boundaries
  – Development standards
  – Zoning requirements
• If Agreement is reached, LAFCO must it “give great weight”
Sphere Maps—“Normal”

Adopted Sphere of Influence and Sphere of Service for the City of Paso Robles

S.O.I. only

Highway 46

Paso Robles Blvd

S.O.I. only
Other Sphere Types

- Sphere can be larger or smaller than agency boundary
- Contiguous Sphere – same area as boundaries
- Zero Sphere – the agency will eventually serve no territory, i.e. go out of existence
Current Amador Spheres

Districts
• 17 Districts
• Resolutions Adopted
• Most done in 1976
• No subsequent actions

Cities
• 5 Cities
• Original SOI 1976
• Resolutions Adopted
• Subsequent Actions
  – Minute Orders
  – Some Denied
  – Not Always Clear
Current City Spheres

- Amador City -- Coterminous - 1976
- Sutter Creek -- Clarification Pending
- Plymouth -- Original 1976 SOI
- Jackson -- Amendments Approved
- Ione -- Amendments Approved
Proposed Strategy

• Affirm Existing City Spheres of Influence
  1. Base Sphere Lines on available records
  2. Prepare GIS Maps
  3. CEQA Exempt - No Change
  4. Adopt Validating Resolutions (June 2007)
     – Prepare MSR
     – Amend/Update Each SOI
Municipal Service Reviews
Commission on Governance & AB2838

- Need for informed LAFCO Decisions
- Integrated Studies
- Need to Resolve Public Service Issues
- Link Services to Spheres of Influence
- Benefits to Public, State and Local Agencies
Service Reviews

• Comprehensive multi-agency studies
• Get away from single agency perspective and turf battles typical of individual sphere studies
• Customer/Public perspective
• Look for opportunities for more efficient public services
• OPR Guidelines for MSRs

• Need to complete before changes in any Sphere of Influence or by 1/1/2008
Review Requirements

• Municipal Services
• Identify Providers
  – Agencies
  – Non-governmental
• Identify Geographic Areas
• Review All Agencies

• Adopt Written Determinations
• Complete Reviews and Sphere Updates before 1/1/08
Municipal Services Requirements

• All Services Provided by Public Agencies
  – Services provided by Agencies with Spheres
  – Includes Other Providers of these Services
• Excludes General County Services
  – i.e. Social Services, Courts
• Multiple Agencies Providing the Service
• Areas and Timing Decided by LAFCO
Required Determinations

- Infrastructure Needs
- Growth Projections
- Financing Opportunities & Constraints
- Cost Avoidance Opportunities
  - Shared facilities
  - Government restructuring
- Management Efficiencies
- Rate restructuring
- Local accountability & governance
Uses of Service Reviews

- Understand Services and Providers
- Enhance Coordination & Understanding Among Agencies
- Planning for Infrastructure
- Coordinate Services & Land Use
- Develop Strategies to Enhance Service and Lower Costs
Spheres and Service Reviews

- Required to Establish Spheres of Influence
- Service Reviews for All Sphere Updates
- Every 5 Years
- Minor SOI Amendments
What’s Next

• Confirm Funding, Circulate RFP
• Select Consultant
• LAFCO May Adopt Guidelines
• Gather Descriptive Data
  – Compile Information
  – Identify Service Issues
LAFCO Hearing & Determinations

• Prepare Analysis & Conclusions
• Issue Public Review Draft & Receive Comments
• Hold Hearing & Make Determinations
• Adopt MSR Resolution
• Individual Sphere Review and Updates