
**FRESNO LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION (LAFCo)
EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**

CONSENT AGENDA ITEM No. 5

DATE: **June 13, 2007**

TO: **Fresno Local Agency Formation Commission**

FROM: **Rick Ballantyne, Executive Officer
Darrel Schmidt, Deputy Executive Officer**

SUBJECT: **Consider Adoption – Municipal Service Review and Sphere of
Influence Update prepared for the Coalinga-Huron Mosquito
Abatement District**

Summary / Background

The Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 requires LAFCo to review and update, as necessary, special district's sphere of influence (SOI) before January 1, 2008, and every five years thereafter. Prior to, or in conjunction with an agency's SOI update, LAFCo is required to conduct a *Municipal Service Review* (MSR) for each agency.

On December 13, 2006, the Commission directed staff to enter into a contract with Braitman & Associates to prepare MSRs and SOIs for numerous cities and special districts. The attached MSR has been prepared for the Coalinga-Huron Mosquito Abatement District.

Municipal Service Reviews provide a comprehensive review of the services provided by a city or district and present recommendations with regard to the condition and adequacy of these services and whether or not modifications to a city or district's SOI are necessary. MSRs can be used as informational tools by LAFCo and local agencies in evaluating the efficiencies of current district operations and may suggest changes in order to better serve the public.

Sphere of influence updates may involve an affirmation of the existing SOI boundaries or recommend modifications to the SOI boundary. LAFCo is not required to initiate changes to an SOI based on findings and recommendations of the service review, although it does have the power to do so.

State law requires that the Commission adopt written MSR determinations for each of the following nine criteria:

1. Infrastructure needs or deficiencies
2. Growth and population projections for the affected area
3. Financing constraints and opportunities
4. Cost avoidance opportunities
5. Opportunities for rate restructuring
6. Opportunities for shared facilities
7. Government structure options, including advantages and disadvantages of the consolidation or reorganization of service providers
8. Evaluation of management efficiencies
9. Local accountability and governance

As part of the SOI update, if the Commission determines that modifications to a district's SOI boundary is appropriate, it is required to consider the following four criteria and make appropriate determinations in relationship to each of the following:

1. The present and planned land uses in the area, including agricultural and open-space lands
2. The present and probable need for public facilities and services in the area
3. The present capacity of public facilities and adequacy of public services that the agency provides or is authorized to provide
4. The existence of any social or economic communities of interest in the area if the commission determines that they are relevant to the agency

Environmental Determination

Staff has determined that adoption of the Coalinga-Huron Mosquito Abatement District MSR and SOI determinations are actions considered to be "Categorically Exempt" as per Section 15306 (Information Collection) of the California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines (CEQA). Any change to a district's SOI resulting from recommendations adopted by the Commission will require additional review under CEQA.

Discussion & Summary of Determinations

The Coalinga-Huron Mosquito Abatement District (MAD) is located in the southwest portion of the County of Fresno encompassing approximately 560,246 acres (875 square miles). Included within the District's boundaries are the Cities of Coalinga and Huron. The District abuts the Fresno-Westside and Consolidated Mosquito Abatement Districts (see Mosquito Abatement Districts Map).

The District office is located in the City of Coalinga. The District Manager, who works part-time, is the District's only permanent employee. Seasonal employees are hired as needed. Services provided by the District include mosquito and disease surveillance, mosquito suppression and control, and mosquito source reduction.

District funds total approximately \$20,000 annually. Exact figures are not known in that the District's Board has not adopted a budget in several years. The District does not belong to joint purchasing or common insurance programs with other mosquito abatement districts in Fresno County. The District does not have any debt.

Consolidating the Coalinga-Huron MAD with the adjacent Consolidated MAD was previously considered but determined not to be practical. If the two Districts were to consolidate, properties located within Coalinga-Huron MAD would be subject to a Special Tax to fund services provided within the Consolidated MAD. Consolidated MAD conducted a survey in the Coalinga-Huron MAD within the past year and determined from the survey that a large number of voters were opposed to consolidation of the two districts if it would result in increased taxes/costs, even if the increases resulted in more services. Given this response, the Districts determined not to pursue consolidation at this time. The District has indicated that it does not plan to pursue consolidation with the Fresno-Westside MAD either.

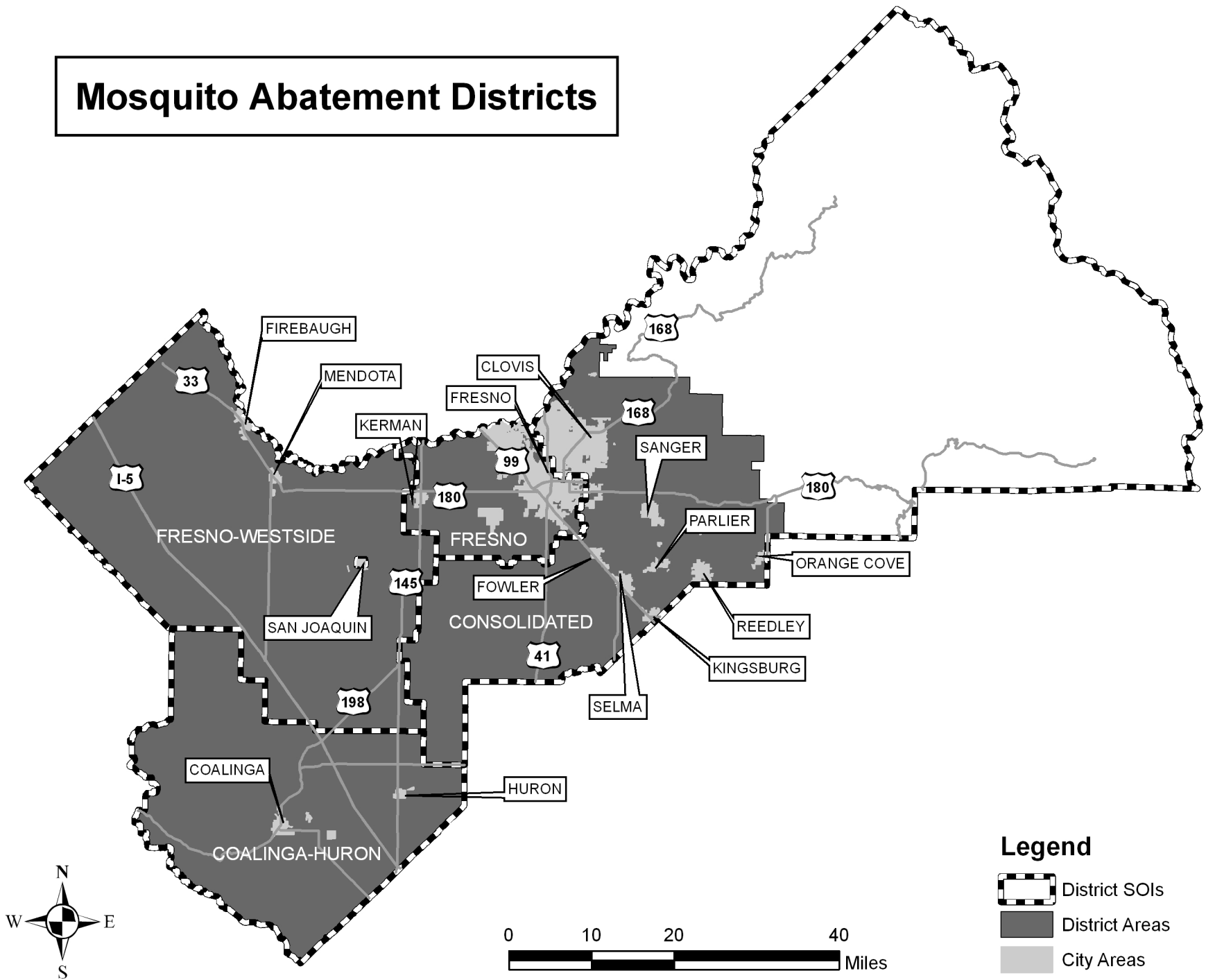
No significant cost avoidance opportunities, rate restructuring, or other opportunities for shared facilities were identified.

No changes to the District's Sphere of Influence are proposed.

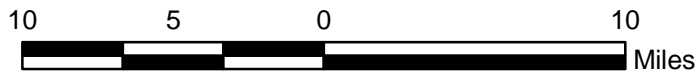
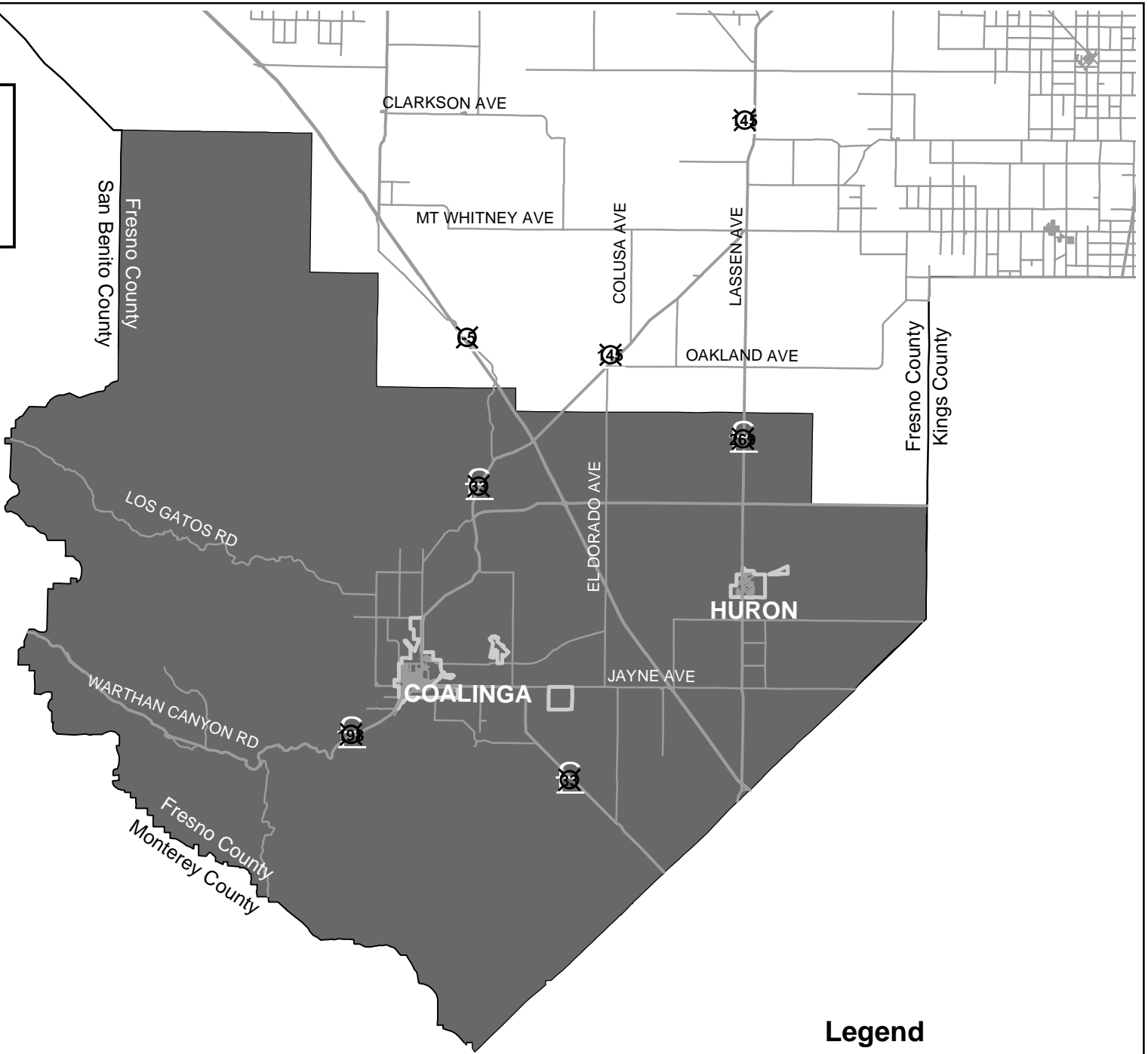
Recommendations:

- A. Acting as Lead Agency pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, find that prior to adopting the written determinations, the Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence determinations under consideration are Categorical Exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under Section 15306, "Information Collection".
- B. Find the Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Update prepared for the Coalinga-Huron Mosquito Abatement District are complete and satisfactory.
- C. Find that the written determinations within the Municipal Service Reviews and Sphere of Influence Updates satisfy State Law.
- D. Pursuant to Government Code Sections 56425 and 56430 adopt the determinations as presented in the Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Update documents.

Mosquito Abatement Districts



Coalinga-Huron Mosquito Abatement District



- Legend**
- District Area and SOI
 - City Areas

RESOLUTION NO. MSR-07-4

**FRESNO LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION
FRESNO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**

In the Matter of

LAFCo Determination

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING MUNICIPAL)
SERVICE REVIEW AND MAKING)
DETERMINATIONS FOR THE)
SPHERE OF INFLUENCE OF THE)
COALINGA-HURON MOSQUITO)
ABATEMENT DISTRICT)**

**ADOPT MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW
PREPARED FOR THE COALINGA-HURON
MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT AND
ADOPT FINDINGS FOR THE DISTRICT'S
SPHERE OF INFLUENCE**

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 (Government Code Section 56425 et. Seq.) the Fresno Local Agency Formation Commission is required to review and update, as necessary, Spheres of Influence of local agencies not less than once every five years; and

WHEREAS, Government Code Section 56430 directs the Commission to conduct a review of municipal services not later than the time it considers an action to establish or update a Sphere of Influence; and

WHEREAS, notice of this Commission's hearing of said request was duly given in a publication of general circulation as required by the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 and State law, and at the time and in the form and manner provided by law; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has heard, discussed and considered all relevant evidence, including but not limited to the Executive Officer's *Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Update Report*, environmental documentation, applicable land use plans and all testimony, correspondence and exhibits received during the public hearing process, all of which are included herein by reference.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Local Agency Formation Commission of the County of Fresno does HEREBY STATE, FIND, RESOLVE, DETERMINE, AND ORDER as follows:

Section #1. Acting as Lead Agency pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, this Commission finds that prior to adopting the written determinations, the Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence determinations under consideration are Categorically Exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under Section 15306, "Information Collection".

Section #2. This Commission finds the Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Update prepared for the Coalinga-Huron Mosquito Abatement District are complete and satisfactory.

Section #3. This Commission finds that the written determinations within the Municipal Service Reviews and Sphere of Influence Update satisfy State Law.

Section #4. Pursuant to Government Code Sections 56425 and 56430 this Commission hereby adopts the determinations as presented in the Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Update documents.

Section #5. The Executive Officer is hereby authorized and directed to mail certified copies of this resolution as provided in Government Code Section 56882 and to file, as appropriate, in the office of the Fresno County Clerk all environmental documents, if any, pertaining to the approval of this Proposal, as required by State law.

* * * * *

ADOPTED THIS 13th DAY OF JUNE, 2007, BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: Commissioners Rodriguez, Fortune, Anderson, Larson, Lopez

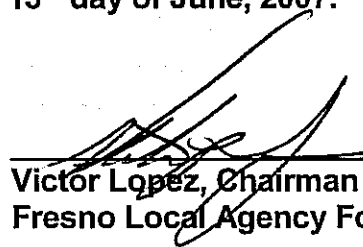
NOES: None

ABSENT: None

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF FRESNO)**

CERTIFICATION

I, Victor Lopez, Chairman of the Fresno Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo), Fresno County, State of California, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Commission on the 13th day of June, 2007.



**Victor Lopez, Chairman
Fresno Local Agency Formation Commission**

COALINGA-HURON MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT

MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW AND SPHERE OF INFLUENCE UPDATE

Report to the
Fresno Local Agency Formation Commission

June 2007

1. MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW

Description of District

The Coalinga-Huron Mosquito Abatement District (MAD) was formed in 1952. It operates pursuant to the Mosquito Abatement and Vector Control District Law (Health and Safety Code, Section 2000 et seq.).

The District encompasses approximately 875 square miles and includes the southwestern area of the County adjacent to Kings, Monterey and San Benito Counties. It is adjacent to the Fresno Westside MAD on the north and Fresno Mosquito and Vector Control District on the east.

The District includes the Cities of Coalinga and Huron, and the unincorporated areas surrounding these cities.

Its boundaries and sphere of influence are coterminous.

A five-member board of trustees, appointed by the Board of Supervisors, governs the District.

A General Manager is responsible for administrative functions. The District has one part-time employee and, depending on funding, one or more seasonal employees.

District Services

District services include mosquito and disease surveillance, mosquito suppression and control and mosquito source reduction.

2. MSR DETERMINATIONS

This portion of the report addresses the factors specified in the governing statute for Municipal Service Reviews.

Infrastructure Needs and Deficiencies

The District office is in Coalinga. It appears from the information provided that the District is able to accommodate service needs from its existing facilities.

Growth and Population Projections

The District's services do not affect rates or location of urban development or population growth, nor does that directly affect the governance of the District.

Financing Constraints and Opportunities

The District receives about \$20,000 in property taxes annually. The General Manager reports the District Board has not adopted a budget in several years.

The District has no debt.

Cost-Avoidance Opportunities

Given the small budget of this large district, it is doubtful that significant cost avoidance opportunities present themselves. The District does not report belonging to joint purchasing or common insurance programs with other Mosquito Abatement Districts.

Opportunities for Rate Restructuring

There are no obvious opportunities for rate restructuring in the operations of the District.

Opportunities for Shared Facilities

There are no opportunities for shared facilities in District operations, other than possible consolidation with other Mosquito Abatement Districts in the County.

Government Structure Options

One government structure is to consolidate with other Mosquito Abatement Districts in the County. The Consolidated MAD conducted a survey in the Coalinga-Huron MAD within the past year regarding possible consolidation of the two agencies. The properties in the Coalinga-Huron MAD would be subject to a special tax if they consolidate with the Consolidated District, similar to the properties in the eastern portion of the County which are currently considering annexation to the Consolidated District.

The District reports that a large number of voters were opposed to being consolidated with another District if it means higher costs would be incurred along with better services.

Management Efficiencies

The District is managed by one position. It exhibits the characteristics of an agency that is operating efficiently and with very limited funds.

Local Accountability and Governance

The District is governed by the a five member Board of Trustees appointed by the Board of Supervisors. Regular meetings are held monthly.

3. SPHERE OF INFLUENCE REVIEW AND UPDATE

Government Code Section 56076 defines sphere of Influence as “A plan for the probable physical boundaries and service area of a local agency, as determined by the commission.

Description of Current Sphere of Influence

The District’s boundaries and sphere of influence are not coterminous.

No Proposed Sphere Changes

The possibility of consolidating with other Mosquito Abatement Districts has been raised and rejected by the voters within the District. No consolidation proposals are pending or are under consideration.

Sphere of Influence Determinations

Inasmuch as no changes in the sphere of influence are proposed at this time it is not necessary for the Commission to adopt or approve any determinations.

4. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & REFERENCES

This draft Municipal Service Review was prepared by Braitman & Associates working at the direction of the Fresno LAFCO staff. Responsibility for any errors or omissions rests with those who prepared the report.

The Coalinga-Huron Mosquito Abatement District provided the information upon which the evaluation is based. The District General Manager Ralph Baiza was instrumental in providing data.

Available Documentation

The “Request for Information for Municipal Service Reviews” submitted by the District and supporting documents referred to therein are available in the LAFCO office.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

In consideration of information gathered and evaluated during the Municipal Service Review it is recommended the Commission:

1. Accept public testimony regarding the proposed Municipal Service Review.
2. Approve the recommended Municipal Service Review determinations, together with any changes deemed appropriate.
3. Affirm the current Sphere of Influence and that it not be revised at this time.