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

AGENDA ITEM No. 10

DATE: June 4, 2008

TO: Fresno Local Agency Formation Commission

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

SUBJECT: Fresno LAFCo Work Program Quarterly Report: Report on Annual Work Program Accomplishments

Background:

On March 5th the Commission approved its "2008 Work Program". During consideration of the Work Program, staff indicated that numerous recommended follow-up actions resulting from approved Municipal Service Reviews and Sphere of Influence (SOI) Updates had been incorporated into the current year *Work Program* along with several other recommended administrative actions needed to improve LAFCo operations.

The Work Program includes 46 work items that were identified and ranked as being high, medium, or low level priorities. Staff also indicated that it would present a quarterly progress report to the Commission.

Accomplishments:

Progress has been made on 11 "high" level priority and one "medium" level priority items. Exhibit "A" that is attached lists these projects, actions taken, and their current status.

Recommended Actions:

Informational/Discussion Item—No required action.

EXHIBIT 'A'

WORK PROGRAM UPDATE

1. **Agency:** City of Fresno

Work Item: Island Annexation Program

Description: Encourage City of Fresno to proceed with its Island Annexation Program. Support efforts in appropriate ways.

Priority Level: High

Action Taken: Two community meetings have been held by the City of Fresno in two unincorporated areas: one in an unincorporated neighborhood near Shields and Chestnut areas and another in the Fort Washington area. LAFCo Staff were in attendance to address any annexation or other LAFCo related questions.

Bruce Barnes, Project Manager with the City's Planning and Development Department, presented an update of the City's island annexation program to the Commission on April 9, 2008.

Status: The City anticipates submitting its first annexation application under its island annexation program in summer, 2008.

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2. **Agency:** City of Fresno; Bluffs Community Service District

Work Item: City Annexation of Bluffs Community Service District area

Description: Support City annexation of this County Island served by Bluff's Community Service District as part of City's Island Annexation Program

Priority Level: High

Action Taken: Communication with City of Fresno staff and residents of the Bluff's Community Service District.

Status: The City of Fresno reports that it tentatively plans to submit an annexation application to LAFCo this summer.

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3. **Agency:** City of San Joaquin; Fresno Westside Mosquito Abatement District

Work Item: Annexation of portion of the City of San Joaquin to the Mosquito Abatement District

Description: Encourage the Fresno Westside Mosquito Abatement District to pursue annexation of territory located within the City of San Joaquin. Commission waived LAFCo related annexation fees.

Priority Level: High

Action Taken: Discussion between LAFCo staff and Mosquito Abatement District staff. The District reported that some discussion between the District and the City had occurred. April 18, 2008, LAFCo sent letter to the City's mayor encouraging annexation to the District.

Status: No response has been received from the City. The District states it is eager to annex the territory within the City, but it has not yet received word from the City that the City desires to pursue annexation.

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4. **Agency:** Cities of Fowler, Kingsburg, Parlier, Sanger, and Selma; Consolidated Irrigation District

Work Item: Groundwater Preservation

Description: Work with local agencies and the Consolidated Irrigation District (CID) to implement feasible strategies to eliminate groundwater overdraft in Southeast Fresno County.

Priority Level: High

Action Taken: Attorney Nancy Miller has been retained to facilitate discussions and an agreement between the five cities and CID. A temporary agreement has been reached between CID and the cities of Fowler, Kingsburg, Parlier, and Sanger which allows development within these cities to continue until a long-term agreement can be reached. These four cities have also contributed a total of \$4,000 each toward expenses associated with this facilitation. The City of Selma has contributed \$2,000, but has elected to no longer participate in this process. A number of meetings have been held and LAFCo counsel reports significant progress has been made toward reaching this long-term agreement with the Cities of Fowler, Kingsburg, Parlier, and Sanger.

Status: Details of the long-term agreement are still being refined to each party's satisfaction. It is anticipated that the remaining four cities and CID will finalize the agreement within the next two to three months.

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5. **Agency:** Fresno County Fire Protection District and North Central Fire Protection District

Work Item: Annexation and detachments of six areas located within and north of Fig Garden.

Description: Detach six areas from Fresno County FPD and annex the same to North Central FPD.

Priority Level: High

Action Taken: The Commission approved this reorganization on February 6, 2008. Protest hearing was held on April 9, 2008.

Status: State Board Equalization fees have not yet been submitted.

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6. **Agency:** Fresno County Fire Protection District

Work Item: Financial Stability

Description: Work with Fresno County FPD to continue reviewing options for the District to achieve financial stability.

Priority Level: High

Action Taken: Met with District to discuss including data related to projected District tax revenue loss data in LAFCo staff reports in order to keep Commission informed as to annexation/detachment impacts to District.

It is also Staff's understanding that the District is considering revisions to District/City transition agreements and that a consultant has been hired to help with this process.

Status: No changes.

7. **Agency:** LAFCo

Work Item: Agricultural Preservation Policies

Description: Work with Cities and County of Fresno in reviewing options for agricultural land preservation; Serve on Model Farmland Conservation Advisory Committee of Valley Blueprint; Work with other LAFCos in reviewing agricultural preservation policies; Conduct workshop and invite LAFCo Executive Officers to share information.

Priority Level: High

Action Taken: Agricultural Land Preservation workshop was conducted on May 9, 2008. Speakers included representatives from American Farmland Trust, four LAFCo Executive Officers, and local elected officials. Fresno LAFCo's Executive Officer continues to participate on the Model Farmland Conservation Advisory Committee and with the Valley Blueprint.

Status: Working to develop policies for adoption by Fresno LAFCo.

8. **Agency:** LAFCo

Work Item: LAFCo Independence

Description: Continue efforts regarding supporting LAFCo Independence

Priority Level: High

Action Taken: Following much discussion, it has been determined that Fresno County could supply Fresno LAFCo with various necessary services should Fresno LAFCo become fully independent. A draft agreement has been written and supplied to the Fresno County Counsel's office for its consideration.

Status: Staff is waiting for information from the County regarding insurance and other cost information. Once the County supplies this information, Staff will return to the Commission for its consideration for the spending of funds for an actuarial analysis required by the Fresno County Retirement System.

9. **Agency:** LAFCo
Work Item: Access Database
Description: Develop an Access database
Priority Level: High
Action Taken: Staff has begun to construct an Access database and is inputting data, developing queries, etc. as time permits.
Status: This is an on-going project with current and most recent files being input first.

10. **Agency:** LAFCo
Work Item: LAFCo Website
Description: Improve Website
Priority Level: High
Action Taken: Website is modified as new ideas and suggestions are received from staff and others.
Status: This is an on-going project.

11. **Agency:** Navelencia and Sierra Resource Conservation Districts
Work Item: Consolidation
Description: Consolidate Navelencia and Sierra Resource Conservation Districts
Priority Level: High
Action Taken: Consolidation was approved by the Commission on April 9, 2008. Protest hearing was held on May 7, 2008.
Status: Revised maps and legal description have been submitted to the Fresno County Assessor's office for review. The Districts are working to satisfy additional conditions so that the consolidation can be recorded.

12. **Agency:** Firebaugh, James, Panoche, Poso, Tranquillity, and Westside Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs)
Work Item: Consolidation
Description: Consolidate all or some of the six western Fresno County RCDs.
Priority Level: Medium
Action Taken: In April LAFCo staff met with staff from four of the six RCDs, California Association of RCDs staff, and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service staff to discuss consolidation. A second meeting is scheduled in June.

Status: Tranquillity and Westside RCDs have indicated desire to consolidate. James RCD is also likely to support consolidation with these other two districts. Remaining three RCDs preferences are unknown.