



# Fresno Local Agency Formation Commission

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June 3, 2021

Manny Amorelli, General Manager  
James Resource Conservation District  
8749 9th Street  
San Joaquin, CA 93660

Dear Mr. Amorelli:

**Subject: MSR 21-4 / USOI-202 – Recommendations and Follow-up Actions**

Fresno LAFCo would like to extend its appreciation to the James Resource Conservation District (“James RCD” or “District”) for its active participation with the Commission’s Municipal Service Review Program.

On May 12, 2021, Fresno LAFCo approved the James RCD Municipal Service Review (“MSR”) and Sphere of Influence (“SOI”) update prepared for the District in compliance with Government Code §56430 and §56425. At this hearing the Commission made various recommendations that require timely action by the District.

Enclosed is a copy of the Commission’s resolution for its adoption of the District’s MSR and SOI update.

The Commission’s recommendations to the District are listed below:

- A. That the District evaluates its temporary suspension of its work program/s and services, consider existing district goals, provide the District Manager policy direction whether resource conservation programs are attainable within James RCD.
- B. That the District assesses whether the temporary webpage on James Irrigation District’s website meets the requirements of Senate Bill 929 (McGuire), the Special Districts Transparency Act of 2020.
- C. That the District report its actions pursuant to Commission recommendations in writing to the Fresno LAFCo no later than **May 12, 2022**.

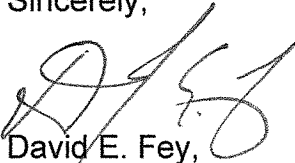
Please be advised that failure to perform these tasks or to provide Fresno LAFCo with a record of their timely completion may result in the Commission’s reconsideration of the

District's designated SOI.

The complete MSR and SOI Update reports can be viewed on Fresno LAFCo's website at: <http://www.fresnolafco.org/MSR%20Reports.asp>.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Senior LAFCo Analyst George W. Uc at (559) 600-0604.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Fey', written over the printed name.

David E. Fey,  
Executive Officer

CC:

Micah H. Combs, President of James RCD

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RESOLUTION NO. MSR 21-4 / USOI-202

A RESOLUTION OF THE FRESNO LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION MAKING DETERMINATIONS AND ADOPTING A MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW; MAKING DETERMINATIONS AND UPDATING THE SPHERE OF INFLUENCE FOR THE JAMES RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 ("CKH"), the Fresno Local Agency Formation Commission is required to review and update, as necessary, spheres of influence ("SOI") of local agencies not less than once every five years; and

**WHEREAS**, on August 20, 2019, the Tranquillity Resource Conservation District ("District") submitted an application (File No. USOI-194) and supporting materials to this Commission pursuant to Government Code section 56428 requesting LAFCo an expansion of the District SOI that would facilitate the planned, orderly, and efficient growth of the District; and

**WHEREAS**, the District's SOI update application No. USOI-194 triggered a simultaneous review of LAFCo's 2007 consolidated SOI of the five Resource Conservation Districts ("RCDs") in Fresno County's west side: Firebaugh RCD, James RCD, Panoche RCD, Poso RCD, Tranquillity RCD, and Westside RCD; and

**WHEREAS**, the objective of the 2007 consolidated SOI for the RCDs was to facilitate the eventual consolidation of Fresno County's westside RCDs; and

**WHEREAS**, the LAFCo's review of the 2007 consolidated SOI for the RCDs notes that it has not served its original objective as proposed by LAFCo; and

**WHEREAS**, CKH directs the Commission to conduct a Municipal Service Review ("MSR") no later than the time it considers an action to either determine, amend, or update a SOI for a local agency; and

**WHEREAS**, the Executive Officer prepared MSRs for Tranquillity RCD, Firebaugh RCD, James RCD, Panoche RCD, and Westside RCD, in response to Tranquillity RCD's request for a SOI update, published the MSRs on the Commission's website, and provided a mailed 21-day public notice to all affected local agencies within the affected territory; and

**WHEREAS**, notice of the Commission hearing for the District SOI update and update of the 2007 consolidated SOI for the RCDs was duly given in a publication of general circulation as required by CKH, at the time, in the form, and manner provided by law; and

**WHEREAS**, the Executive Officer reviewed said application and prepared a staff report to the Commission, including a recommendation for approval, said report having been mailed to each affected local agency within the affected territory and interested individuals pursuant to Government Code section 56428(c); and

**WHEREAS**, at the duly noticed public meeting, held on May 12, 2021, the Commission heard, discussed, and considered all relevant evidence, including but not limited to the MSRs

determinations and recommendations, environmental review documents, and all testimony, correspondence, and attachments received during the public hearing process.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fresno Local Agency Formation Commission does hereby DETERMINE AND ORDER, as follows:**

**ACTION 1: MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEWS**

- A. Acting as Lead Agency pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) Guidelines find that the MSR’s prepared for: Tranquillity RCD, Firebaugh RCD, James RCD, Panoche RCD, and Westside RCD are Categorically Exempt from the provisions of CEQA under section 15306, “Information Collection.”

**ADOPTED THIS 12<sup>th</sup> DAY OF MAY 2021 BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:**

**AYES: COMMISSIONERS MAGSIG, SANTOYO, PARRA, YEP, BRANDAU**  
**NOES: NONE**  
**ABSENT: NONE**  
**ABSTAIN: NONE**

**ACTION 2: JAMES RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT SOI UPDATE**

- B. Acting as a Lead Agency, find that it can be seen with certainty that the proposed District SOI updates for James RCD does not have the potential to result in significant effects on the environment and therefore the SOI update is not subject to CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15061 (b)(3).

**ADOPTED THIS 12<sup>th</sup> DAY OF MAY 2021, BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:**

**AYES: COMMISSIONERS PARRA, MAGSIG, SANTOYO, YEP, BRANDAU**  
**NOES: NONE**  
**ABSENT: NONE**  
**ABSTAIN: NONE**

**ACTION 3: WRITTEN DETERMINATIONS AND RECCOMENDATIONS**

- C. Receive this report and any public testimony regarding the proposed Municipal Service Review and proposed sphere of influence update.
- D. Approve the recommended Municipal Service Review determinations, together with any changes deemed appropriate.

- E. Approve the recommended sphere of influence update determinations, together with any changes deemed appropriate.
- F. Omit the James Resource Conservation District from the 2007 consolidated SOI for the westside Resource Conservation Districts.
- G. Determine a SOI for the James RCD that is coterminous with the District's 26,263-acre service area, as depicted in **Attachment A**.
- H. **Recommendations to the James Resource Conservation District:**
  - a. Request that the District evaluate its temporary suspension of its work program/s and services, consider existing district goals, provide the District Manager policy direction whether resource conservation programs are attainable within James RCD.
  - b. That the District assess whether this temporary webpage on James Irrigation District's website assists the District meet the requirements of Senate Bill 929 (McGuire), the Special Districts Transparency Act of 2020.
  - c. Direct the District to report its actions in writing to the Fresno LAFCo no later than May 12, 2022.

**ADOPTED THIS 12<sup>th</sup> DAY OF MAY 2021 BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:**

**AYES: COMMISSIONERS MAGSIG, SANTOYO, PARRA, YEP, BRANDAU**

**NOES: NONE**

**ABSENT: NONE**

**ABSTAIN: NONE**

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

**CERTIFICATION**

I, David E. Fey, Executive Officer, Fresno Local Agency Formation Commission, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Commission on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of May 2021.




  
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 David E. Fey, Executive Officer  
 Fresno Local Agency Formation Commission

# James Resource Conservation District

Services: soil conservation



**Fresno Local Agency Formation Commission**

-  Proposed SOI update
-  District Service Area
-  City of San Joaquin Limits

Formation: 1954  
 District area: 26,263 acres  
 Proposed sphere update: 26,263 acres

Map prepared: 02/26/2021

