



San Diego County
Local Agency Formation Commission
 Regional Service Planning | Subdivision of the State of California

5h

AGENDA REPORT
 Consent | Information

August 3, 2020

TO: Commissioners

FROM: Robert Barry, Chief Policy Analyst
 Linda Heckenkamp, Analyst I

SUBJECT: **Active Proposals and Related Activities**

SUMMARY

The San Diego County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) will receive a report identifying active change of organization or reorganization proposal applications on file with the Commission as well as a summary of pending proposal application submittals. This includes identifying five new proposal applications submitted since the last report in June. The item is for information and concurrently satisfies LAFCO’s reporting requirement to affected agencies for notification of proposed special district annexations submitted by petition of landowners or voters.

BACKGROUND

Processing Procedures and Timelines

LAFCO proceedings for consideration of proposed changes of organization or reorganizations – which may include incorporations, formations, annexations, detachments, mergers, consolidations, and service function activations or divestures – are typically initiated by outside applicants (subject landowners or registered voters, and/or local affected agencies). LAFCOs may also initiate proposals specific to forming, consolidating, or dissolving special districts if consistent with the recommendations of approved municipal service reviews. Following submittal, proposal applications are reviewed by San Diego LAFCO staff for

<p>Administration Keene Simonds, Executive Officer County Operations Center 9335 Hazard Way, Suite 200 San Diego, California 92123 T 858.614.7755 F 858.614.7766 www.sdlafco.org</p>	<p>Jim Desmond County of San Diego</p> <p>Chair Dianne Jacob County of San Diego</p> <p>Greg Cox, Alternate County of San Diego</p>	<p>Mary Casillas Salas City of Chula Vista</p> <p>Bill Wells City of El Cajon</p> <p>Paul McNamara, Alternate City of Escondido</p>	<p>Mark Kersey City of San Diego</p> <p>Chris Cate, Alternate City of San Diego</p>	<p>Jo MacKenzie Vista Irrigation</p> <p>Barry Willis Alpine Fire Protection</p> <p>Erin Lump, Alternate Rincon del Diablo MWD</p>	<p>Vice Chair Andy Vanderlaan General Public</p> <p>Harry Mathis, Alternate General Public</p>
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completeness and status letters are sent to the applicants within 30 days. If additional documentation is required, the submitted proposal application is deemed incomplete and the status letter will itemize the needed information. Once the application is complete, a *Certificate of Filing* is issued by the Executive Officer and the proposal is scheduled for Commission consideration and placed on the agenda as consent, business, or hearing items based on noticing requirements.¹ Overall, most proposals are forwarded to the Commission within six months from the date of submittal.

DISCUSSION

This item is being presented for information only and identifies all active proposal applications currently being processed by San Diego LAFCO. The report also – and for telegraphing purposes of future workload – identifies pending proposals staff anticipates being submitted with LAFCO in the near term. The information item also serves to concurrently satisfy the Commission’s reporting requirement to provide notice on agendas to affected special districts when proposed annexation applications are initiated by petition of landowners or registered voters.² A summary of active and pending proposal applications follow and detailed in Attachment One.

Active Proposals & Related Petition Notifications

There are 26 proposal applications currently active and undergoing processing with San Diego LAFCO as of date. Current processing stages of these active applications range from pre-Commission action (22) to post-Commission action (4) with the latter category representing items already approved but awaiting the completion of conducting authority proceedings (i.e., protest) or terms. Five new proposal applications have been submitted since the last meeting in June and are identified below.

- “Mercurio – Grossmont Boulevard Out-of-Agency Wastewater Contractual Service Agreement” OAS20-09 | Sphere of influence Amendment and Contractual Wastewater Service Agreement with the City of La Mesa
- “Lindauer – Olive Street Reorganization” RO20-11 | Annexation to Vallecitos Water District and Concurrent Detachment from Vista Irrigation District
- “Ortiz – Olive Avenue Reorganization” RO20-12 | Annexation to the City of Vista and Concurrent Detachment from Vista Fire Protection District
- “Valley Center Community Services District - County Service Area No. 138 Reorganization” RO20-13 | Dissolution of Valley Center Community Services District and Concurrent Formation of County Service Area No. 138”

¹ The Executive Officer may also place proposals otherwise meriting consent on the business calendar to solicit additional review and discussion if warranted. Separately, applications involving outside-of-agency service extension requests follow separate proceedings and may be administratively approved by the Executive Officer if addressing documented public health or safety threats.

² Government Code Section 56857 directs LAFCOs to provide notice on agendas of any proposal involving special districts that have been initiated by landowners or registered voters. The agenda notification starts a 60-day period in which the affected special districts may request termination of the proceedings due to financial or service-related concerns.

- “San Diego County Fire Protection District Reorganization” RO20-14 | Formation of San Diego County Fire Protection District and Concurrent Divestiture of Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Service Functions of County Service Area No. 135

Pending Proposals

There are five substantive proposals staff anticipates being submitted to San Diego LAFCO contingent with local agency development and environmental reviews for the associated projects, and following hearing and approval by affected local agencies.³ Three of these pending proposals would involve city annexations in North County to accommodate relatively large residential subdivision projects presently undergoing local planning review, including Harvest Hills (Escondido), Sager Ranch (Escondido), and Rancho Lomas Verdes (Vista).

ANALYSIS

San Diego LAFCO remains active in processing almost two dozen proposals. Submitted proposal applications are generally on file for less than one calendar year and most actively progress through the proposal review process. The active proposal applications include three recent and substantive proposal applications. These involve separate reorganization proposals submitted by Fallbrook Public Utility District and Rainbow Municipal Water District to detach from the San Diego County Water Authority and annex to Eastern Municipal Water District (Riverside); as well as the County of San Diego’s submitted reorganization application to form a dependent San Diego County Fire Protection District and concurrently divest fire protection and emergency medical services from County Service Area No. 135. Other substantive proposals on file include requested latent powers activation by Fallbrook Public Utility District and various actions associated with the Valiano – Eden Hills development proposal. There are a few proposal applications that have been on file with the Commission as incomplete for more than five years and have become dormant for various reasons with some meriting formal termination. To this end, and consistent with earlier Chair direction, staff anticipates presenting draft policy language shortly to authorize the Executive Officer to terminate or otherwise abandon proposals considered non-active and/or non-responsive for 60 months following submittal.

RECOMMENDATION

This item is presented to San Diego LAFCO for information only.

ALTERNATIVES FOR ACTION

This item is being presented for information only; no action is necessary.

³ Staff uses discretion in listing pending proposals and limits notice to only activities to be initiated by a local governmental agency. Pending proposals to be initiated by landowners and/or registered voters are not disclosed until an actual filing is made.

PROCEDURES

This item has been placed on the San Diego LAFCO's agenda as part of the consent calendar. A successful motion to approve the consent calendar will include taking affirmative action on the staff recommendation unless otherwise specified by the Commission.

On behalf of staff,



Linda Heckenkamp
Analyst I

Attachment:

- 1) Active and Pending Proposal Applications as of August 3, 2020

File Number	Proposal Name Affected Agencies	Project Manager	Proposal Summary
ACTIVE PROPOSAL APPLICATIONS PENDING COMMISSION ACTION			
1	DA08-10 “Avocado Way-Potter Annexation” - Vallecitos WD (Annexation)	Robert Barry	Application submitted in March 2008 for a proposed annexation to Vallecitos WD to obtain wastewater service for two existing residences along Avocado Way but deemed incomplete in April 2008 status letter. A new status letter was sent to the applicant in January 2018 stating the proposal will be considered abandoned unless notified otherwise. The current property owner has responded and conveyed their interest to proceed with the annexation. There have been ongoing discussions with Vallecitos WD as of 2018.
2	RO08-09 “South Mollison Ave-Snyder Reorganization” - City of El Cajon (Annexation)	Robert Barry	Application submitted in May 2008 for a proposed annexation to the City of El Cajon. The annexation area includes approximately 1.25 acres and is subject to a proposed multi-family residential project and was deemed incomplete in June 2008 status letter. A new status letter was sent in January 2018 to the applicant, new property owner, and City stating the proposal will be considered abandoned unless notified otherwise. No response from any of the interested parties to date. (Expected abandonment subject to pending policy authorization.)
3	RO08-15 SA08-15 “Crestlake Estates Reorganization” - San Diego County SD (Annexation) - Lakeside FPD (Annexation) - CSA 69 (Annexation)	Robert Barry	Application submitted in May 2008 requesting a reorganization to provide wastewater services to an approved Tentative Map allowing the development of 60 single-family residences and was deemed incomplete in June 2008 status letter. A new status letter was sent to the applicant in February 2018 stating the proposal will be considered abandoned unless notified otherwise. No response to date. (Expected abandonment subject to pending policy authorization.)
4	DA12-02 “Lorch Annexation” - Borrego WD (Annexation)	Robert Barry	Application submitted in March 2012 to annex approximately 9.4 acres to the Borrego Water District to provide water service to one parcel within the District sphere. Application deemed incomplete in an April 2012 status letter. A new status letter was sent in January 2018 stating the proposal will be considered abandoned unless notified otherwise. Borrego WD responded to the letter and has reinitiated discussions with the landowner regarding possible service terms. Ongoing discussions with Borrego WD continue.
5	RO06-17 “Tobacco Road Reorganization” - City of Escondido (Annexation)	Robert Barry	Application submitted in March 2006 to annex six parcels to the City of El Cajon for wastewater service. In 2006, LAFCO approved two out of service agreements to allow the City of Escondido to provide wastewater service to two residences with failing septic systems located along Tobacco Road. The agreements between the City and landowners required the annexation of the two parcels. The proposal was deemed incomplete in April 2006 status letter. A new status letter was sent in January 2018 stating the proposal will be considered abandoned unless notified otherwise. Two of the affected landowners have responded to the letter and are now working with the City in determining if the other landowners are interested/willing to proceed with the annexation at this time. Ongoing discussions continue.

File Number	Proposal Name Affected Agencies	Project Manager	Proposal Summary
6	DA16-10 "CSA 17 Harmony Grove Annexation" - CSA 17 (Annexation)	Linda Heckenkamp	Application submitted in May 2016 to annex approximately 3,600 acres to CSA 17 for ambulance service and done so as a cross-condition of the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District Reorganization: Dissolution of CSA No. 107 (Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove). The proposal was deemed incomplete in June 2016 status letter. The CSA 17 Advisory Committee has opposed the annexation. A negotiated property tax exchange agreement is also necessary. LAFCO staff met with the applicant in August 2019 to provide assistance and continues to discuss opportunities to proceed forward.
7	RO16-11 "Rancho Hills Annexation" - Rancho Santa Fe CSD (Annexation)	Robert Barry	Application submitted in October 2016 to annex a portion of a 37-lot residential subdivision titled "Rancho Hills" to Rancho Santa Fe CSD for wastewater service. A concurrent latent power expansion for Olivenhain MWD is needed to accommodate sewer to the remaining project site. The proposal was deemed incomplete in November 2016 status letter. Applicant has requested the proposal processing be placed on hold. Staff has remained in contact with the applicant and is awaiting their confirmation to proceed.
8	RO19-04 "Ortega – Olde Highway 80 Change of Organization" - San Diego County Sanitation District (Annexation)	Linda Heckenkamp	Application submitted in February 2019 by landowner petition to annex two residential lots totaling approximately 5.07 acres to San Diego County Sanitation District for wastewater service. The submitted proposal application is incomplete and pending receipt of additional documentation and information from the applicant to complete staff's analysis.
9	SA19-26 RO19-26 OAS19-26 "Valiano - Eden Valley Reorganization" - City of Escondido (Sphere Amendment, Contractual Wastewater Service Agreement - San Marcos FPD (Annexation) - Rancho Santa Fe FPD (Sphere Amendment, Detachment)	Robert Barry	Application submitted in November 2019 by landowner petition and the City of Escondido. Proposal involves reorganization of approximately 10.76 acres with annexation to San Marcos Fire Protection District (FPD) and concurrent detachment and sphere exclusion from Rancho Santa Fe FPD; and, amendments to the spheres of influence for the Cities of Escondido (inclusion) and San Marcos (exclusion) for two unincorporated parcels totaling 82.9 acres and subject to a 240.6 acre County of San Diego-approved Specific Plan (TM-5575); and, approval of a contractual wastewater agreement between the landowner of the unincorporated Specific Plan area and the City of Escondido to extend City wastewater service to 326 single-family residences to be constructed within the Escondido sphere. The submitted proposal application is incomplete and pending staff's analysis. (On January 27, 2020, the San Diego Superior Court overturned the County development approvals for the project. The applicant is appealing the Court decision and has requested LAFCO continue to process the reorganization.)
10	LP(E)19-27 "Fallbrook Public Utility District Latent Power Expansion Park & Rec et.al."	Robert Barry	Application submitted in November 2019 by resolution seeking approval to activate Fallbrook PUD's latent power to exercise park and recreation, street lighting and roads and street functions within its boundaries. The submitted proposal application is incomplete and pending receipt of additional documentation and this includes completion of a scheduled municipal service review for the Fallbrook-Rainbow region.

File Number	Proposal Name Affected Agencies	Project Manager	Proposal Summary
11	CO20-01 "Anthony Heights - Lupa Change of Organization" - Vallecitos Water District (Annexation)	Robert Barry	Application submitted in February 2020 by landowner petition and involves annexation of one unincorporated residential parcel totaling approximately 1.35 acres to Vallecitos WD for wastewater service along with a 0.16 acre frontage portion of Nordahl Road. The submitted proposal is scheduled for the August 3rd Commission hearing.
12	CO20-03 "Orphan – Eolus Avenue Change of Organization" - Leucadia Wastewater District (Annexation)	Linda Heckenkamp	Application submitted in February 2020 by resolution of Leucadia WWD and involves annexation of approximately 0.56 acres within its boundaries for connection to public wastewater service. The submitted proposal is scheduled for the August 3rd Commission hearing.
13	RO20-04 "Rainbow MWD – Eastern MWD Wholesale Water Service Reorganization" – San Diego County Water Authority (detachment) – Eastern Municipal Water District (annexation)	Robert Barry	Application submitted April 2020 by resolution from the Rainbow MWD to concurrently detach from the San Diego County Water Authority and annex to the Eastern MWD. The submitted proposal application is incomplete and pending receipt of additional documentation and information from the applicant to complete staff's analysis. A 10-member advisory committee has also been established by the Commission to assist staff in evaluating the proposal.
14	RO20-05 "Fallbrook PUD – Eastern MWD Wholesale Water Service Reorganization" – San Diego County Water Authority (detachment) – Eastern Municipal Water District (annexation)	Robert Barry	Application submitted April 2020 by resolution from the Fallbrook PUD to concurrently detach from the San Diego County Water Authority and annex to the Eastern MWD. The submitted proposal application is incomplete and pending receipt of additional documentation and information from the applicant to complete staff's analysis. A 10-member advisory committee has also been established by the Commission to assist staff in evaluating the proposal.
15	CO20-07 "Schirber – Hymettus Avenue Change of Organization" - Leucadia Wastewater District (Annexation)	Linda Heckenkamp	Application submitted in April 2020 by resolution from Leucadia WWD and involves annexation of approximately 1.69 acres for connection to public wastewater service. The submitted proposal application is incomplete and pending receipt of additional documentation and information from the applicant to complete staff's analysis.
16	CO20-08 "Fuerte Ranch Estates Change of Organization" - San Diego County Sanitation District (Annexation)	Robert Barry	Application submitted in May 2020 by landowner petition and involves annexation of approximately 27.3 acres to San Diego County Sanitation District to facilitate the development of 36 single-family homes. The submitted proposal application is incomplete and pending receipt of additional documentation and information from the applicant to complete staff's analysis.
17	SA20-09 OAS20-09 "Mercurio – Grossmont Boulevard Out-of-Agency Wastewater Contractual Service Agreement" - City of La Mesa (Annexation)	Robert Barry	Application submitted in June 2020 by landowner request and involves an out-of-agency contractual wastewater service agreement with the City of La Mesa for one existing single-family residence and one proposed ADU. The unincorporated property totals approximately 0.91 acres, is not contiguous with the City, and is not within the La Mesa sphere of influence. Per Government Code Section 56133, the proposed wastewater OAS agreement requires an amendment for inclusion of the affected territory within the La Mesa sphere in anticipation of a future annexation. The request is incomplete and pending receipt of additional documentation and information from the applicant to complete staff's analysis.

File Number	Proposal Name Affected Agencies	Project Manager	Proposal Summary
18	RO20-10 "Meadowood Reorganization" - Rainbow Municipal Water District (Annexation) - Valley Center Municipal Water District (Detachment)	Robert Barry	Application submitted in June 2020 by resolution from the Rainbow MWD and involves annexation of approximately 374.7 acres and the development of 844 units for water and wastewater service. A concurrent detachment from Valley Center MWD is also proposed. The submitted proposal application is incomplete and pending receipt of additional documentation and this includes completing a scheduled municipal service review involving Rainbow MWD.
19	RO20-11 "Lindauer – Olive Street Reorganization" - Vallecitos Water District (Annexation) - Vista Irrigation District (Detachment)	Robert Barry	Application submitted in June 2020 by landowner petition and involves annexation of approximately 4.0 acres for water and wastewater service. The affected territory is developed with a single-family residence experiencing a failing well for domestic water uses. The submitted proposal application is incomplete and pending receipt of additional documentation and information from the applicant to complete staff's analysis.
20	RO20-12 "Ortiz – Olive Avenue Reorganization" - City of Vista (Annexation) - Vista Fire Protection District (Detachment)	Linda Heckenkamp	Application submitted in June 2020 by landowner petition and involves annexation to the City of Vista of approximately 4.94 acres for wastewater service and concurrent detachment from Vista Fire Protection District. The affected territory has proposed development of 15 residential lots. The submitted proposal application is incomplete and pending receipt of additional documentation and information from the applicant to complete staff's analysis.
21	RO20-13 "Valley Center Community Services District -County Service Area No. 138 Reorganization" Valley Center Community Services District (Dissolution) County Service Area No. 138 (Formation)	Linda Heckenkamp	Application submitted in June 2020 by resolution and involves the concurrent dissolution of Valley Center Community Services District and formation of County Service Area No. 138 to assume park and recreation services. The submitted proposal application is incomplete and pending receipt of additional documentation and information from the applicant to complete staff's analysis.
22	RO20-14 "San Diego County Fire Protection District Reorganization" County Service Area No. 135 (Divestiture of Fire Protection and EMS Functions) San Diego County Fire Protection District (Formation)	Robert Barry	Proposal submitted June 2020 by resolution of the County Board of Supervisors. Involving the divestiture of latent powers for fire protection and emergency medical service functions of County Service Area No. 135 and the concurrent formation of a dependent San Diego County Fire Protection District within the divestiture territory. The submitted proposal application is incomplete and pending receipt of additional documentation and information from the applicant to complete staff's analysis.

File Number	Proposal Name Affected Agencies	Project Manager	Proposal Summary
ACTIVE PROPOSALS POST COMMISSION ACTION			
23	SA16-20 LP16-20	Robert Barry	Proposal submitted November 2016 by resolution of the San Diego County Fire Authority. Involved annexation of remaining unserved Islands 2, 3, and 4 via reorganization of local fire service territory among five local agencies: CSA 135; Bonita-Sunnyside FPD; Lakeside FPD; Ramona MWD; and San Miguel FPD. Reorganization involved annexation to the subject agencies and expansion of CSA No. 135's latent powers to provide fire protection and emergency medical services to three unincorporated and unserved island areas totaling approximately 21,048 acres. Conforming amendments to add the affected territory to the subject agencies' spheres of influence were also required. The reorganization proposal was approved February 4, 2018 and is now pending recordation once all terms are satisfied. A noticed protest hearing was held on March 13, 2019 at the LAFCO office. No protest was received by affected registered voters or landowners.
24	SA18-07 OAS18-07	Robert Barry	Proposal involves an outside-of-agency contractual wastewater service agreement between the property owner and the City of La Mesa. OAS covers extension of City wastewater sewer service to one existing unincorporated single-family residence located outside of the La Mesa sphere of influence. The purpose of the OAS is to allow the landowner to proceed with an intensity improvement to develop an accessory workshop unit, which exceeds the permitted capacity of the existing onsite septic system. The proposal was approved by the Commission on April 8, 2018 and is now pending recordation once all terms are satisfied.
25	RO19-15 OAS19-15	Linda Heckenkamp	Proposal application submitted in August 2019 by landowner petition requesting reorganization with the City of Escondido of two unincorporated parcels totaling approximately 0.63 acres and each developed with one single-family residence. Both residences provided documentation of failing/failed septic systems. Emergency OAS agreements for wastewater were granted to resolve the health and emergency situation in advance of annexation to Escondido. Reorganization with Escondido also required concurrent detachment from CSA No. 135 (Regional Communications) and exclusion from RDDMWD ID"E." The proposal was approved by the Commission on June 1st, 2020 and is now pending recordation once all terms are satisfied.
26	CO20-06	Linda Heckenkamp	Proposal application submitted April 2020 by resolution of the County of San Diego. Involves formation of County Service Area No. 137 to assume retail water service responsibility for a failing private water company located in the unincorporated community of Live Oak Springs in the southeastern portion of unincorporated San Diego County. The affected territory includes approximately 151.5 acres. The proposal was approved by the Commission on June 1st, 2020 with a protest hearing held on July 2 nd and now pending recordation once all terms are satisfied.

File Number	Proposal Name Affected Agencies	Project Manager	Proposal Summary
PENDING PROPOSAL APPLICATION SUBMITTALS (No project manager; inquiries should be direct to Robert Barry)			
27	Pending “Harvest Hills Reorganization” - City of Escondido		This anticipated reorganization proposal is currently undergoing development and environmental review by the City of Escondido. Submittal to LAFCO anticipated for late 2020-2021. The anticipated proposal involves annexation of approximately 1,098 acres to the City for the primary purpose of developing a 550-lot residential subdivision. All of the affected territory lies outside the adopted Escondido sphere. Due to the scope of the proposal area a comprehensive update of the City’s sphere is warranted along with preparing the supporting municipal service review document. These and issues have been communicated to the City and are currently under joint review with other stakeholders. Project was originally titled as “Safari Highlands.”
28	Pending “Rancho Lomas Verde Reorganization” - City of Vista		This anticipated reorganization proposal is currently undergoing development and environmental review by the City of Vista. The anticipated proposal involves annexation of approximately 300 acres to the City of Vista and concurrent detachments from CSA 135 and the Vista FPD to facilitate a 153-lot residential development. Close to three-fourths of the project area lies outside the adopted Vista sphere. Due to the scope of the proposal area a comprehensive update of the City’s sphere is warranted along with preparing the supporting municipal service review document. These and issues have been communicated to the City and are currently under joint review with other stakeholders.
29	Pending “Sager Ranch Reorganization” - City of Escondido		This anticipated reorganization involves annexation of approximate 1,800 unincorporated acres to the City of Escondido and concurrent detachments from CSA 135 and the Valley Center FPD. The reorganization would facilitate the proposed development of approximately 200 acres to include 203 residential units and a 225-room resort. Portions of the project area lies outside the current City sphere. Due to the scope of the proposal area a comprehensive update of the City’s sphere is warranted along with preparing the supporting municipal service review document. These and issues have been communicated to the City and are currently under joint review with other stakeholders.
30	Pending Harmony Grove Village South (TM-626)		This anticipated reorganization involves the unincorporated Harmony Grove Village South project and specific to accommodating sewer services (among a variety of options) for the planned development of approximately 111 acres to include 453 residential units. On January 27, the San Diego Superior Court overturned the County development approvals for the project.