



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

7b

AGENDA REPORT
 Business | Action

December 7, 2020

TO: Commissioners

FROM: Keene Simonds, Executive Officer
 Robert Barry, Chief Policy Analyst

**SUBJECT: Protest Hearing Results and Related Actions |
 “San Diego County Fire Protection District Reorganization” (RO20-14)**

SUMMARY

The San Diego County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) will receive the results of the protest hearing held for the “San Diego County Fire Protection District Reorganization”. This proposal was conditionally approved by the Commission in October 2020 and involves the concurrent divestiture of fire protection and emergency medical service powers for County Service Area (CSA) No. 135 and formation of the San Diego County Fire Protection District (FPD) as the designated successor agency. The noticed protest hearing was held by staff on November 9th without generating written opposition from affected landowners or voters. It is recommended the Commission receive the protest results and order the effective date for December 7, 2020.

BACKGROUND

Proposal Request

In July 2020, the County of San Diego filed a reorganization proposal with San Diego LAFCO to concurrently divest CSA No. 135’s activated fire protection and emergency medical service functions and form the San Diego County FPD as successor agency. The affected territory totals 1.6 million acres and includes all of CSA No. 135’s existing fire protection and emergency

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medical service area. The affected territory is entirely unincorporated with an estimated population of 50,746 and includes – but not limited to – the communities of Descanso, Jamul, Julian, Ocotillo Wells, Pine Valley, Pauma Valley, Ranchita, Shelter Valley, and Warner Springs.

Commission Action

On October 2, 2020, San Diego LAFCO held a noticed public hearing to consider the reorganization proposal filed by the County of San Diego. The Commission proceeded to conditionally approve the reorganization without modifications. The Commission also delegated protest hearings to the Executive Officer as allowed under policy.

DISCUSSION

This information item is for San Diego LAFCO to receive the results of the protest hearing delegated to the Executive Officer involving the Commission’s earlier approval of the reorganization proposal as required under policy. The item is also for the Commission to provide related direction on next steps with respect to setting the effective date of the reorganization. Additional discussion follows.

Protest Hearing Results

The Executive Officer held the protest hearing on the reorganization on November 9, 2020 at the LAFCO office. Notice of the hearing was provided in manner allowed under statute and included publishing advertisements in the Union Tribune as well as several local newspapers. No written protest was received through the end of the hearing from affected landowners or voters as further detailed in the accompanying footnote.¹ A confirming resolution ordering the reorganization has been executed by the Executive Officer and staff attests all approval terms have been satisfied.

Next Steps

San Diego LAFCO retains full discretion in statute in the setting the effective date of the reorganization so long as it is within nine months of the completion of protest proceedings. The effective date would be memorialized in the Certificate of Completion recorded with the County-Clerk Recorder’s Office and filed with the State Board of Equalization – Tax Division for purposes of adjusting the master tax roll.

(continued)

¹ The total number of landowners within the affected territory are 27,166. The total number of registered voters within the affected territory are 24,474.

ANALYSIS

The reorganization to form the San Diego County FPD has cleared its last substantive threshold with the completion of protest proceedings. This marks a significant accomplishment years in the making for both the County of San Diego and San Diego LAFCO in the shared interest to formalize fire protection services in previously unserved or underserved unincorporated areas. Current Supervisor and Commission Chair Dianne Jacob and former Supervisor and Commissioner Bill Horn merit specific commendation in their sustained efforts leading to this accomplishment.² Unless the Commission prefers otherwise, staff believes it would be appropriate to immediately proceed with issuing the Certificate of Completion and setting the effective date to December 7th and in doing so parallel Chair Jacobs final LAFCO meeting. County Fire Authority is agreeable to this date.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended San Diego LAFCO formally receive the results of the protest hearing held on the reorganization and set the effective date to December 7, 2020. This recommendation is consistent with Alternative One as provided in the proceeding section.

ALTERNATIVES FOR ACTION

The following alternative actions are available to San Diego LAFCO and can be accomplished with a single-motion:

Alternative One (recommended):

- a) Receive and file the protest results for the “San Diego County Fire Protection District Reorganization.”
- b) Direct the Executive Officer to execute a Certificate of Completion for the reorganization and set the effective date to December 7, 2020.

Alternative Two:

Continue the item to a future meeting and provide direction to staff with respect to any additional analysis or information requested.

² Staff also acknowledges the County Fire Authority and its current leadership, Director Herman Reddick and Chief Tony Mecham. Staff also acknowledges past contributions of former LAFCO staff, Mike Ott, Shirley Anderson, and John Traylor.

PROCEDURES

This item has been placed on the agenda for action as part of San Diego LAFCO's business calendar. The following procedures are suggested in the consideration of this item:

- 1) Receive verbal report from staff unless waived.
- 2) Receive public comments, if any.
- 3) Discuss item and consider recommendation.

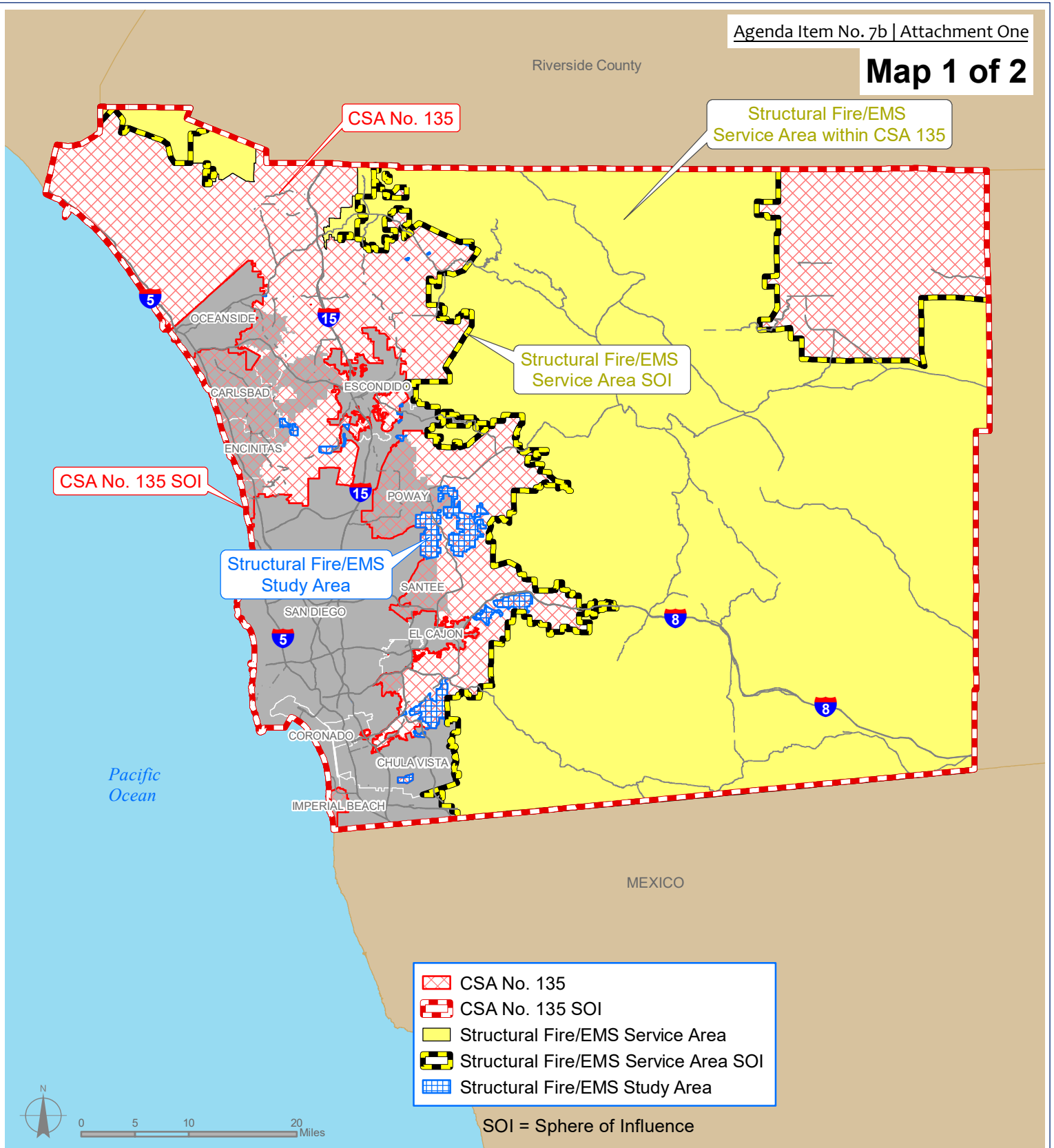
On behalf of the Executive Officer,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Barry', with a horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

Robert Barry, AICP
Chief Policy Analyst

Attachment:

- 1) Map of the Affected Territory
 - Regional Communications
 - Fire Protection



RO20-14 San Diego County Fire Protection District Reorganization" | Proposed Formation of the San Diego County Fire Protection District with Concurrent Divestiture of Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services from County Service Area No. 135



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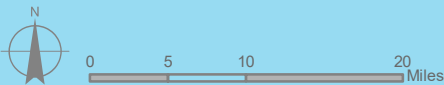
Riverside County

Proposed San Diego County FPD Formation Area SOI

Proposed San Diego County FPD Formation Area

- Proposed SDC FPD Formation Area
- Proposed SDC FPD Formation Area SOI

SOI = Sphere of Influence



Pacific Ocean

MEXICO

RO20-14 San Diego County Fire Protection District Reorganization" | Proposed Formation of the San Diego County Fire Protection District with Concurrent Divestiture of Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services from County Service Area No. 135



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