



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

# 6b

**AGENDA REPORT**  
 Public Hearing

June 7, 2021

**TO:** Commissioners

**FROM:** Keene Simonds, Executive Officer  
 Priscilla Allen, Analyst I

**SUBJECT: Proposed Sphere of Influence Update for the City of Poway**

**SUMMARY**

The San Diego County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) will consider approving a sphere of influence update for the City of Poway as part of its regular review requirement under statute. The proposed update is to affirm without any change and marked by retaining all 2,144 non-jurisdictional acres within the sphere. It is recommended the Commission proceed to approve the recommendation by resolution and in doing so allow for a formal 30-day reconsideration period as provided under statute.

**BACKGROUND**

**Spheres of Influence**

LAFCOs establish and maintain spheres of influence for all cities and most special districts to designate the territory it independently believes represents the appropriate and probable future service areas and jurisdictional boundaries of the affected agencies. Importantly, all jurisdictional changes, such as annexations and detachments, must be consistent with the spheres of the affected local agencies with limited exceptions. Recent legislation also now requires LAFCOs to review all local agencies’ spheres every five years and update as appropriate and based on information generated as part of a municipal service review.

<p><b>Administration</b>          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>Vice Chair Jim Desmond          County of San Diego</p> <p>Nora Vargas          County of San Diego</p> <p>Joel Anderson, Alt.          County of San Diego</p>	<p>Paul McNamara          City of Escondido</p> <p>Mary Casillas Salas          City of Chula Vista</p> <p>Kristi Becker, Alt.          City of Solana Beach</p>	<p>Chris Cate          City of San Diego</p> <p>Marni von Wilpert, Alt.          City of San Diego</p>	<p>Jo MacKenzie          Vista Irrigation</p> <p>Barry Willis          Alpine Fire Protection</p> <p>Vacant, Alt.          Special Districts</p>	<p>Chair Andy Vanderlaan          General Public</p> <p>Harry Mathis, Alt.          General Public</p>
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## Informing Document to Sphere Update | Municipal Service Review on the City of Poway

San Diego LAFCO recently prepared a municipal service review on the Poway region and specifically focused on the principal local government subject to Commission oversight – City of Poway. The municipal service review is expected to be formally acted on ahead of this item and serves as the Commission’s independent evaluation of the availability, need, and sufficiency of services provided by Poway. The municipal service review – notably – includes several recommendations and this includes advising the Commission proceed to affirm Poway’s sphere without changes.

### **DISCUSSION**

This item is for San Diego LAFCO to consider recommendation to approve an update to the sphere of influence for the City of Poway. The recommendation is drawn from the associated municipal service review recently prepared on the Poway region and would affirm the existing sphere designation without changes and as described below.

- LAFCO established the Poway sphere in 1985 and most recently affirmed without any changes as part of a 2008 cursory review.
- The total sphere spans 25,039 acres (parcels, waterways, and public rights-of-ways) and includes all jurisdictional lands. The total resident population within the sphere is estimated by LAFCO at 49,539.
- The sphere currently includes 2,114 non-jurisdictional lands and comprise 89 assessor parcels with an estimated resident population of 140.

### **ANALYSIS**

Affirming the City of Poway’s sphere without change is appropriate and serves to maintain LAFCO’s baseline municipal growth expectations for the City. Affirmation is consistent with the recommendation of the associated municipal service review and appropriately syncs with a related recommendation to Poway to perform an update to the General Plan. It would relatedly be appropriate for LAFCO to defer consideration of any individual sphere amendment requests to the next update unless special circumstances warrant otherwise. Determinations addressing all mandatory factors required of the Commission in in statute in taking action on the sphere are provided as Exhibit A in the attached resolution.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended San Diego LAFCO approve an update to affirm without changes the sphere of influence for the City of Poway. This recommendation is consistent with Alternative One as outlined in the succeeding section.

## ALTERNATIVES FOR ACTION

The following alternative actions are available to San Diego LAFCO and can be accomplished through a single-approved motion.

Alternative One (recommended):

Adopt the draft resolution provided as Attachment One approving an update with no changes the existing City of Poway sphere of influence.

Alternative Two:

Continue the item and request additional information from staff as needed.

## PROCEDURES FOR CONSIDERATION

This item has been placed on San Diego LAFCO's agenda for action as part of a noticed public hearing. The following procedures are recommended in the consideration of this item:

- 1) Receive verbal presentation from staff unless waived.
- 2) Initial questions or clarifications from the Commission.
- 3) Open the hearing and invite public comments.
- 4) Discuss item and consider the staff recommendation.

On behalf of the Executive Officer,



Priscilla Allen  
Analyst I

Attachment:

- 1) Draft Resolution
  - Exhibit A: Written Determinations
  - Exhibit B: Sphere Designation

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**RESOLUTION NO.**

**RESOLUTION OF THE  
SAN DIEGO COUNTY LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION  
MAKING DETERMINATIONS**

**SPHERE OF INFLUENCE UPDATE  
CITY OF POWAY**

**WHEREAS**, the San Diego County Local Agency Formation Commission, hereinafter referred to as the “Commission”, is a political subdivision of the State of California with regulatory and planning responsibilities to facilitate orderly growth and development under the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commission is responsible under Government Code Section 56425 to establish spheres of influence for all local agencies under Commission oversight with the added statutory directive that all jurisdictional changes must be consistent with the affected agencies’ spheres with limited exceptions; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commission is also responsible under Government Code Section 56425 to review and update all local agencies’ spheres of influence every five years as necessary; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commission recently completed a regional municipal service review covering the City of Poway; and

**WHEREAS**, the regional municipal service review covering the City of Poway was accepted by the Commission on June 7, 2021 and serves as the informing document for the Commission to proceed with a sphere of influence update; and

**WHEREAS**, the Executive Officer’s written report and recommendations on a sphere of influence update for City of Poway was presented to the Commission in a manner provided by law; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commission heard and fully considered all the evidence presented at a public meeting concerning the sphere of influence update for City of Poway on June 7, 2021;

**WHEREAS**, as part of the sphere of influence update process, the Commission is required pursuant to Government Code Section 56425(e) to make a statement of written determinations with regards to certain factors.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Commission hereby finds, determines, and orders the following:

1. The Commission determines the sphere of influence update for County Service Area No. 135 represents a project under the California Environmental Quality Act but exempt from further review under the “general rule” provided under State Guidelines 15061(b)(3). This exemption appropriately applies given it can be seen with certainty spheres of influence are planning policies and any amendments or updates do not make any changes to the environment or authorize any new uses or services.
2. The Commission has considered the Executive Officer’s written report on the sphere of influence update and recommendations therein.
3. The Commission makes the statements set forth in Exhibit “A” in determining the sphere of influence for City of Poway.
4. The Commission APPROVES an update to the existing sphere of influence for the City of Poway with no changes.
5. The updated sphere of influence for the City of Poway is shown as Exhibit “B”.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Commission on June 7, 2021 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAINING:

ATTEST:

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Keene Simonds  
Executive Officer

## EXHIBIT A

### STATEMENT OF DETERMINATIONS GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 56425

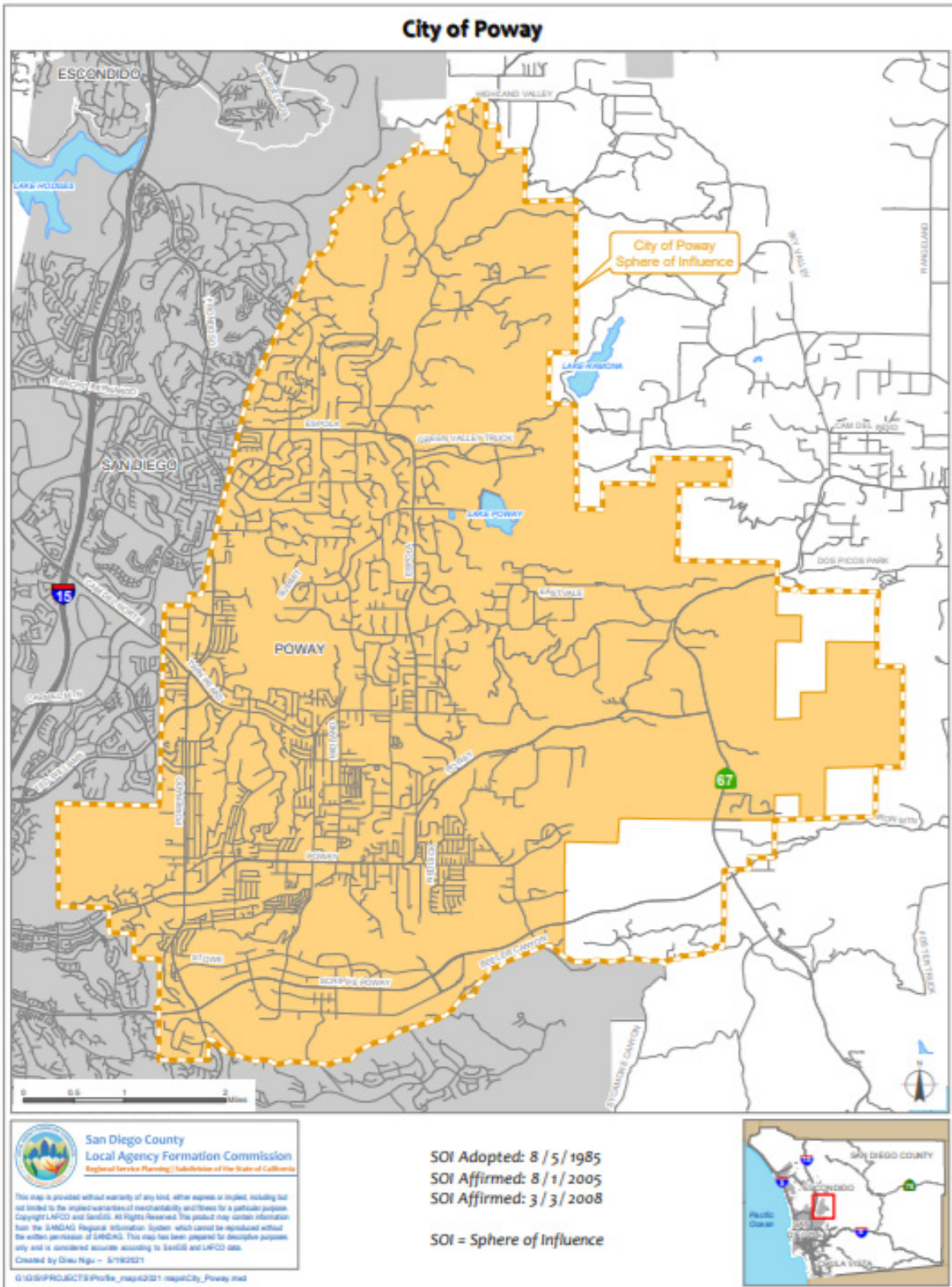
1. With respect to present and planned land uses in the area as required under Section 56425(e)(1), the Commission independently determines the following.
  - a) Most land within the City of Poway's sphere of influence consist of low to moderate residential uses paired with local serving commercial and retail uses along with public open space. The update to affirm the sphere with no changes supports these present and planned land uses.
2. With respect to present and probable need for public facilities and services in the area as required under Section 56425(e)(2), the Commission independently determines the following.
  - a) The sphere of influence appropriately demarks the City of Poway's current and/or probable future boundary and service area. The update to affirm the sphere with no changes supports these present and probable public service needs.
3. With respect to present capacity of public facilities and adequacy of public services the agencies' provide or are authorized to provide as required under Section 56425(e)(3), the Commission independently determines the following.
  - a) A comprehensive evaluation of the City of Poway and its core service functions has been separately prepared by the Commission as part of a regional municipal service review. The Commission relies on the municipal service review in making all related sphere of influence determinations for the City of Poway.
4. With respect to the existence of any relevant social or economic community of interest in the area as required under Section 56425(e)(4), the Commission independently determines the following.
  - a) The sphere of influence appropriately reflects existing and relevant social and economic communities of interests between the City of Poway and its active service functions. The update to affirm the sphere with no changes supports these communities of interests.
5. With respect to the present and probable need for public water, sewer, and fire protection services of any disadvantaged unincorporated communities within or adjacent to the sphere as required under Section 56425(e)(5), the Commission independently determines the following.
  - a) No lands within the City of Poway sphere of influence qualify as disadvantaged unincorporated communities. A determination on adjacent lands requires more review as provided in the associated municipal service review.

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# EXHIBIT B-1

## SPHERE OF INFLUENCE UPDATE CITY OF POWAY



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