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*The Local Agency Formation
Commission Serving Plumas County*

MEMORANDUM

July 12, 2010

TO: LAFCO Commissioners

FROM: John Benoit, Executive Officer

RE: Prioritization of MSR/SOI projects

Attached is an inventory showing the names of Special Districts in Plumas County and the Status of the MSR and SOI updates since the Legislature required LAFCO's to update Spheres of Influence (SOI) in 2001.

The 2010-2011 budget includes minimal funding (\$20,000) to cover the costs of working on Municipal Service Reviews and Spheres of Influence Updates, as required by the LAFCO Act, is proposed. This includes funding for MSR's for service districts. It is anticipated that more funding will be appropriated in future years and revenue received from applications will help reimburse the LAFCO budget.

Normally, the districts receiving the highest priority are the growth inducing districts such as water and wastewater. Fire Protection Districts or fire/EMS services are also a high priority. Based on the inventory the following **water and wastewater districts** should be a priority.

Indian Valley CSD, Plumas Eureka CSD, West Almanor CSD, Clio Public Utility District, Johnsville Public Utility District, Greenhorn Ranch CSD, Dixie Valley CSD, Walker Ranch CSD, Grizzly Ranch CSD and Beckwourth CSA

Fire Districts yet to complete a SOI Update include: Hamilton Branch, LaPorte, Meadow, Peninsula, Prattville-Almanor, Quincy and Sierra Valley

As can be noted from the inventory it appears various districts, which have completed Spheres of Influence are those where annexations have been proposed and (or) where fees to LAFCO have been paid resulting in a checkerboard approach to completing the MSR's.

A fundamental issue is Municipal Service Reviews need to focus on the service not the district whereas the Sphere of Influence needs to focus on the probable growth boundary of a specific district.

A broad overview of services needs to be examined in a MSR. Unfortunately, the MSR's have been completed at various times and were not prioritized based on the services provided although most MSR's completed are related to fire, water and wastewater.

Municipal Service Reviews can be prepared by region. For example the services provided by the City of Portola and districts in that portion of the County. Likewise the Amador Basin, Indian Valley or Quincy area are options. In this case the MSR would examine services provided by all districts in a geographic area and Spheres would be set for those districts within the geographic area. For example, this approach was used in Yuba County.

Other LAFCO's have done MSR's based on the service such as fire or cemetery services for the entire county. For example, In April 2010 Modoc LAFCO adopted a MSR for fire services. LAFCO in Modoc County is now working on the Sphere of Influence for all the fire districts.

Most LAFCO's have a hybrid approach, which could work in Plumas LAFCO since many of the Service Districts have updated spheres already. In this case the remaining fire MSR's could be completed as well as the water and wastewater MSR's and information from the existing adopted MSR's can be placed in specific documents based on specific services and re-affirmed.

Recommendation:

Hold a discussion of the various approaches to completing the MSR's:

- a. County-wide services In this case complete a MSR County-wide for a specific service such as fire and then update SOI's.
 - b. Regional services - In this case complete a MSR for all services within a specific region of Plumas County and update all the Spheres of Influence
 - c. Continue with the existing program by completing a MSR on services provided by specific districts in the County such as those fire, water and wastewater mentioned above.
1. **Select a methodology.** My recommendation would be to complete all the MSR and SOI updates for a particular region of Plumas County: Eastern County, Lake Amador, Quincy Area or Indian Valley, for example. This would be a comprehensive regional approach and probably would have the best benefit since all services in a given geographical area would be evaluated at the same time. Eventually all the service districts in the County would be covered.

This methodology does not preclude any agency or interested party from having a MSR prepared in another part of the county providing they are willing to pay the LAFCO fee for this purpose.

2. **Prioritize the Region: Based** on my limited experience in Plumas County the highest priority should be to initiate a MSR on Eastern Plumas County with the City of Portola, the Graeagle Area, several fire districts, CSD's, a RID, a recreation district and a Hospital District.
3. **Hold discussion and make a final decision on the approach and methodology to be used.**