

STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: January 19, 2005

CONSENT

TO: LAFCO Commissioners

FROM: Everett Millais, Executive Officer

SUBJECT: Sphere of Influence Review and Update: LAFCO 04-11S
 Ojai Valley Sanitary District

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Continue discussion and action on the update to the Ojai Valley Sanitary District sphere of influence to April 20, 2005.

DISCUSSION:

At their meeting on December 6, 2004, the Ojai Valley Sanitary District Board reviewed and, by a split vote, approved a new proposed sphere of influence update. This action by the District Board will form the basis for a project description for LAFCO staff to conduct CEQA review of the proposed sphere update.

Before starting the CEQA process for the proposed sphere update, however, the District staff has been requested to provide historical information about wastewater flows to the District's treatment plant and historical information about the type and number of connections to the District's wastewater collection system. This information, together with information about the wastewater treatment plant's design capacity, will be necessary for the District to verify that there is sufficient treatment plant capacity for the proposed sphere update.

At this point in time, the requested historical information has not been provided by the District and LAFCO staff, therefore, has not begun the CEQA review process. Once the

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EXECUTIVE OFFICER: Everett Millais	LAFCO ANALYST: Vacant	OFFICE MANAGER/CLERK: Debbie Schubert	LEGAL COUNSEL: Leroy Smith

information is received, it is probable that a draft Negative Declaration will be prepared and circulated to the District and interested parties. This process will take some time.

In order to allow sufficient time for the District to provide the requested historical information, and for LAFCO staff to complete the CEQA checklist and prepare and distribute a possible Negative Declaration, it is now recommended that the matter of the sphere of influence update for the Ojai Valley Sanitary District be continued to the LAFCO meeting of April 20, 2005.

As indicated previously, I have continued to advise the District Board that LAFCO is prepared to update spheres of influence based on the updates being considered exempt under CEQA or upon a determination that there are no significant environmental effects and no mitigation measures are necessary (a Negative Declaration). In December I again advised the Board, however, that I would not undertake any other environmental work or specialized studies without further direction from the Commission due to staff time and budget constraints. Should such further environmental analysis be necessary before LAFCO could consider a sphere of influence update, I told the District Board I would recommend to the Commission that the District fund LAFCO's expenses for hiring consultants to prepare the extra environmental analysis. This is the same information I have been relaying to other districts as a part of the sphere of influence update process.

While this sphere of influence update is taking considerably longer than any of the other sphere of influence reviews to date, it is also by far the most complex. The existing sphere of influence of the Ojai Valley Sanitary District has little relationship to the District's boundaries or service area. The goal of the sphere of influence update is to correct these deficiencies as much as possible, but to also minimize the level of potential CEQA review and analysis in terms of time and expense for the District and LAFCO. To this end all parties are continuing to work cooperatively.