

SONOMA LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

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Staff Report

Meeting Date: February 1, 2023

Agenda No. Item 5.1

Agenda Item Title: 2023 Preliminary Commission Work Plan

Environmental Determination: Not a Project under CEQA

Staff Contacts: Mark Bramfitt

Analysis

Background

Staff would like to use the opportunity of the Commission's first meeting in 2023 to provide a review of current and expected projects.

Where possible, staff has provided a sense of when proposals may come before the Commission.

First Quarter

- Review and potential adoption of Municipal Service Review (MSR) for “remaining” portions of **County Service Area 40 - Fire Services**. This review will cover areas of CSA 40 that have not been reviewed in recent MSRs, including volunteer fire protection companies serving territory to the south and west of Petaluma, three “Incident Response Plan” territories north of Guerneville and Forestville, and island territories within the City of Santa Rosa. Per Commission direction, staff is not preparing Sphere of Influence amendment recommendations at this time. (March meeting)
- Review and potential adoption of a Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Study for the **Russian River County Sanitation District** (March meeting)
- Review and potential approval of a fire services provision contract between the **Sonoma Valley Fire Protection District and the Kenwood Fire Protection District**. (March meeting)
- Consideration of a reorganization proposal from **Gold Ridge Fire Protection District** involving detachment and subsequent annexation of County Service Area 40 territories.
- Review of preliminary **2023/24 budget**. (Budget Committee, March meeting)
- Review of policy development regarding **Commission-initiated district dissolutions**. (Policy Committee, March or April meeting)
- Review of code interpretation regarding development of **Accessory Dwelling Units** on parcels subject to longstanding service provision agreements entered into by the City of Santa Rosa and the County of Sonoma. (March or April meeting)

Second Quarter

- Review and approval of consultant contracts for a **Disadvantaged Unincorporated Community inventory** and mapping project, and for a Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Study for the **Valley of the Moon Water District**. (April meeting)
- Commission review and approval of proposed **2023/24 Budget**. (April meeting)
- Review of fiscal audits for FY 2020-2021 and 2021-2022.
- Consideration of conducting a Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Study for the **Graton Community Services District and the Occidental County Water District** (a dependent District of the County), at the request of the Districts. (April or May meeting)
- Commission review of **employment contract** - Executive Officer. (June meeting)
- Preparation of a Sphere of Influence study for remaining **County Service Area 40 – Fire Services** territories, pending filing of a Plan for Services by Gold Ridge Fire Protection District that addresses Commission concerns. (Unknown)

Other Proposals

- The **City of Santa Rosa** is contemplating a large annexation of territory to the southeast of the City and will likely seek LAFCO support to prepare a Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Study. The Commission should be aware that the potential annexation will require adjudication of whether adjacent areas qualify as Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities, necessitating their inclusion in any annexation proposal. Additionally, the County and City are meeting to discuss how to orchestrate a potential annexation of the Moorland Avenue/Industry West areas southwest of the City.
- A group of property owners in the **Alexander Valley** region in northern Sonoma County have developed a preliminary proposal to form a water district that would seek to serve agricultural and potentially residential users in the area that are expected to lose diversion rights from the Russian River (or otherwise experience severe limitations on diversions). Staff has been in consultation with the potential applicants, the County, and other interested parties.
- Supervisor Hopkins' office is managing a project seeking to define what service needs are required in **lower Russian River** communities, and how those needs are or are not being met by existing agencies. LAFCO may be asked to prepare studies to support district reorganizations or to evaluate district formation proposals.
- Supervisor Gorin's office is managing a project to evaluate community interest in exploring governance options in **Sonoma Valley**, including the potential for a reorganization involving annexation of Springs communities into the City of Sonoma. LAFCO may be asked to prepare studies to evaluate any proposed reorganizations.

- A group of residents in the Glen Ellen area have developed a proposal to form a Community Services District that would seek to secure the rights to manage development and service provision at the State's **Sonoma Developmental Center**. Though staff believes it unlikely, an application by petition may be filed with LAFCO.

Recommendation

Staff is presenting information about current and expected projects for 2023, and requests comment and direction at the Commission's discretion.

Attachments

None