

SONOMA LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

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Staff Report

Meeting Date: May 1, 2024

Agenda No. Item 4 .1

Agenda Item Title: File No. 2023-11: City of Santa Rosa Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Study, adoption of determinations and amendment of the City's sphere of influence

Proposal: None

Environmental Determination: Exempt pursuant to State CEQA Guideline Sections 15306 and 15061 (b)(3)

Staff Contacts: Mark Bramfitt

ANALYSIS

Overview

Using consulting services, staff has prepared a Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Study for the City of Santa Rosa.

The Municipal Service Review portion of the study evaluates the City across a set of factors required by the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Act. The study finds that the City is in sound condition across these factors.

The Sphere of Influence portion of the Study addresses five additional factors, and concludes that the sphere of influence should be made coterminous with the City's Urban Growth Boundary, which is a voter-approved limit on the City's expansion potential. Amending the sphere as recommended will remove some parcels of territory north of the City but outside the UGB, and add some territory, notably to the south of the City's existing limits.

The study has been reviewed by City staff, and LAFCO has noticed a public hearing for the May 1, 2024 meeting for the Commission to consider adopting the determinations of the report. Staff sought comment from the Commission at the March 7, 2024 meeting and the Public Review Draft includes changes to the report made by the consultants at staff direction.

Background

In 2023, the Commission authorized staff to select RSG as a consultant to prepare a Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Study for the City of Santa Rosa. The City requested that the study be conducted, and asked that the sphere of influence of the City be made contiguous with its voter-approved Urban Growth Boundary ("UGB") ordinance.

RSG has prepared a Public Review Draft of the study (Attachment 1). The study includes a set of determinations, which in turn forms the basis for a draft resolution (Attachment 2), for the Commission to consider adopting at the May 1, 2024 meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Commission consider adopting the determinations set forth in the Public Review Draft of the Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Study for the City of Santa Rosa, and further that it order amendments to the City's sphere of influence as recommended in the report.

Staff has prepared a draft resolution (Attachment 3) for the Commission's consideration.

Attachments:

1. Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Study for the City of Santa Rosa; public review draft.
2. Staff direction to consultant for amendments to the study, with indications of where the amendments were made in the report by the consultant.
3. Draft resolution adopting determinations of study.