

MINUTES OF THE LOCAL AGENCY
FORMATION COMMISSION FOR LOS ANGELES COUNTY

February 25, 2004

Present:

Henri F. Pellissier, Chairman
Yvonne Brathwaite-Burke
James DiGiuseppe
Carol Herrera
Cindy Miscikowski
Beatrice Proo
Zev Yaroslavsky

Kenneth I. Chappell, Alternate
Richard Close, Alternate
Robert W. Goldsworthy, Alternate
Donald Knabe, Alternate
Cristina Cruz-Madrid, Alternate

Larry J. Calemene, Executive Officer
John Krattli, Legal Counsel

Absent:
Jerry Gladbach

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The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

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Pledge of Allegiance led by Henri F. Pellissier, Chairman.

[Commissioner Burke in at 9:02]

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The following matter was called up for consideration:

Protest Hearing for the consolidation of County Sanitation District Nos. 26 and 32, located in the City of Santa Clarita and surrounding unincorporated Los Angeles County territory.

Proposal Area: The boundaries of the proposed consolidated district are equivalent to the combined boundaries of the two existing districts. The area encompasses the majority of the City of Santa Clarita and some of the surrounding unincorporated County area.

The area is highly urbanized with a significant number of residential neighborhoods and associated commercial corridors. The area also includes specific sites emphasizing commercial and industrial development, as well as a significant amount of vacant land and/or open space.

The service area of the existing districts and associated spheres of influence are bounded by the Angeles National Forest to the north, the Santa Susana and San Gabriel Mountain ridgelines and the Angeles National Forest to the south, the Ventura County line and the Los Padres National Forest to the west and Agua Dulce to the east.

Redevelopment Project Areas: Portions of the existing two districts are within existing redevelopment areas; consequently, the same portions of the proposed consolidated district will be within the existing redevelopment areas. Consolidation of the two districts will not add or subtract any land from an existing redevelopment area; nor will it result in the creation of any new redevelopment area.

Present Capacity of Public Facilities: Wastewater generated by the consolidated district will continue to be treated at the Saugus and Valencia Water Reclamation Plant (WRP). The two WRPs have a combined design capacity of 19.1 mgd and currently process an average flow of 18.35 mgd. The Valencia WRP is currently undergoing an expansion to increase the combined capacity to 28.1 mgd. Accordingly, the Districts' sewerage facilities have or, in accordance with current policy will have, adequate capacity to collect, treat, and dispose of the wastewater anticipated to be generated by the service area. The Districts have an approved facilities plan and final EIR that provides for an increase of the ultimate treatment capacity to 34.1 mgd.

Minute Order No. 3 (cont'd)

Provision of Services: The proposed consolidation will not result in any new services or any change in existing services. Issues of growth and required facilities for the combined service areas of Districts 26 and 32 are addressed in the 2015 Santa Clarita Valley Joint Sewerage System Facilities Plan and Final EIR. The approved facilities plan and final EIR provides for an increase of the ultimate treatment capacity to 34.1 mgd.

Expansion-related facilities are financed through the connection fee program. The program charges new dischargers or those existing users who significantly increase their discharge for the incremental cost of expanding the sewerage system to accommodate their discharge. Upgrade-related capital and operation and maintenance costs are financed through the service charge program. This program charges existing discharges for their proportionate share of the annual costs of the sewerage system.

Assessments, Fees, Charges and Existing Debt: The two existing districts currently impose equivalent connection fee and service charge rates, the consolidated district will continue to impose these rates. The consolidated district will assume the responsibility for the combined debt service of the two districts.

The residents of the consolidated district will be the same as for the two existing districts. Therefore, the residents will remain liable for any existing indebtedness.

Fiscal Obligations: All money, funds and obligations of the existing districts will become the money, funds and obligations of the consolidated district.

Correspondence: Staff has not received any correspondence in opposition to or in support of this consolidation.

Chairman Pellissier opened the protest hearing to receive any and all oral or written protests or petitions, objections, or evidence, presented or filed, relating to this proposal. No protests were filed and the hearing was closed.

On motion of Commissioner Goldsworthy, unanimously carried (Commissioner Gladbach being absent), the Commission took the following actions:

- Adopted attached Resolution No. 2004-02P ordering the consolidation of Los Angeles County Sanitation District No. 26 into Los Angeles County Sanitation District No. 32 without an election.
- Provided that the consolidation shall be subject to the following terms and conditions:
 - a. The effective date of the consolidation shall be July 1, 2005.

Minute Order No. 3 (cont'd)

- b. The consolidated territory shall be subject to the payment of such service charges, assessments or taxes as District No. 32 may legally impose.
- c. Property owners within the consolidated territory will continue to be taxed for their respective District's existing bonded indebtedness.
- d. District No. 32 shall assume all of the assets and liabilities, including any funds and/or contract obligations, of District No. 26.

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On motion of Commissioner Burke, unanimously carried (Commissioner Gladbach being absent), the minutes of the meeting held on February 11, 2004 were approved.

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The Executive Officer gave a progress report on the Municipal Service Reviews (MSR) and Spheres of Influence Update. The Executive Officer indicated the first draft of the Catalina Island MSR would be sent to the local agencies to start the 30 day response period. He further indicated that a meeting would be held on the island of Catalina and he would work with the city manager to set an appropriate date and time. Chairman Pellissier noted that only four commissioners could attend that meeting without violating the Brown Act.

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The Executive Officer presented the pending proposal status report and noted that no new proposals have been filed with LAFCO.

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No one came forward during the period allowed for public comment.

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The next meetings will be March 10, 2004 and March 24, 2004.

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Chairman Pellissier requested staff to report back to the commission on issues with the Newhall County Water District and possible detachment requests.

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On motion of Commissioner, unanimously carried (Commissioner Gladbach being absent), the meeting adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry J. Calemine
Executive Officer