

Staff Report

June 11, 2014

Agenda Item No. 9.a.

**Sativa County Water District Municipal Service Review (MSR) and
Sphere of Influence (SOI) Update**

Background:

At your May 14th meeting, the Commission closed the public hearing and took several actions relative to the MSR and SOI Update for the Sativa County Water District.

At your May 14th meeting, staff was asked to address two issues and agendize for today's meeting:

- Revised Commission Resolution. Staff was directed to provide additional narrative to the draft Commission resolution to discuss the 2005 MSR, identify the progress or lack thereof by District officials in addressing various issues raised by LAFCO staff and others, and to provide a context which more appropriately identifies the context in which the Commission adopted a Zero Sphere of Influence (Zero SOI) for the District at this time.

A revised Commission resolution is attached for your consideration. An "underline" version is also provided, in which the underlined text reflects language added to last month's draft resolution.

- Public Outreach Options. Staff was asked to explore, in more detail, various options for alerting Sativa's ratepayers relative to LAFCO's conclusions about the Sativa County Water District. The Commission has a number of options, including, but not limited to, the following:
 - A. Issue a press release (bilingual English and Spanish) describing the Commission's determination (Zero SOI) as well as the issues identified in the preparation of the MSR and SOI Update as documented in the Draft MSR and staff report; or
 - B. Mail a hard copy of the August 2012 Draft MSR and the Staff Report to all mailing addresses within the boundaries of the Sativa County Water District (roughly 1,700 properties); or

- C. Send a letter (bilingual English and Spanish) describing the Commission's determination (Zero SOI) as well as the issues identified in the preparation of the MSR and SOI Update as documented in the Draft MSR and staff report, including a paragraph offering to mail a complete hard copy of the Draft MSR and the Staff Report upon request; or
- D. Provide the letter noted in "C," above, to Sativa staff to include in the monthly invoices sent to ratepayers; or
- E. Work with District representatives on a joint mailer to include in the monthly invoices sent to ratepayers; or
- F. Conduct no public outreach above the usual practice of posting action on LAFCO's website and quarterly reports when submitted by the District;

Staff is unaware of LAFCO ever utilizing the approach outlined in Alternatives "A" through "E," above; in that regard, such actions would be unprecedented. Alternative "B" is cost-prohibitive due to reproduction and mailing expenses, and there is no available budget to translate both the Draft MSR and the Staff Report into Spanish.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends that the Commission:

- 1) Approve the draft of the revised Resolution 2014-00RMD; and
- 2) Direct staff concerning public outreach.