



Local Agency Formation Commission
LAFCO of Napa County

1700 Second Street, Suite 268
Napa, CA 94559
(707) 259-8645
FAX (707) 251-1053
<http://napa.lafco.ca.gov>

February 5, 2007
Agenda Item No. 7c

January 29, 2007

TO: Local Agency Formation Commission

FROM: Keene Simonds, Executive Officer

SUBJECT: *Comprehensive Study of the Napa County Resource Conservation District (Action)*

The Commission will receive two reports as part of its municipal service review and sphere of influence review for the Napa County Resource Conservation District. The Commission will consider resolutions adopting the determinations and statements included in both reports pursuant to California Government Codes §56340 and §56425.

In 2001, California Government Code was amended as part of the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 to require Local Agency Formation Commissions (LAFCOs) to review and update, as necessary, each local agency's sphere of influence every five years. This legislation also requires that LAFCOs conduct municipal service reviews in conjunction with the sphere reviews of local agencies to determine the adequacy of the governmental services that are being provided in the region. The collective purpose of these reviews is to inform and guide LAFCOs in their legislative mandate to plan and coordinate the orderly development of local agencies in a manner that provides for the present and future needs of the community.

Discussion

In May 2006, LAFCO of Napa County initiated its *Comprehensive Study of the Napa County Resource Conservation District*. The initial phase of the study was prepared by P&D Consultants and consisted of a municipal service review report evaluating the development, organization, and services of the District. Following a public review period, a final report was presented to the Commission at its December 4, 2006 meeting to receive and file.

Drawing from the report by P&D Consultants, staff has prepared the final two phases of the study, which include the development of written determinations and the sphere review of the District. Both phases are provided as separate attachments and include statements that address the service and planning factors the Commission is required to consider as part of its service review and sphere review mandates under California Government Codes §56430 and §56425, respectively. Draft resolutions adopting these

Jack Gingles, Chair
Mayor, City of Calistoga

Cindy Coffey, Commissioner
Councilmember, City of American Canyon

Juliana Inman, Alternate Commissioner
Councilmember, City of Napa

Brad Wagenknecht, Vice-Chair
County of Napa Supervisor, 1st District

Bill Dodd, Commissioner
County of Napa Supervisor, 4th District

Mark Luce, Alternate Commissioner
County of Napa Supervisor, 2nd District

Brian J. Kelly, Commissioner
Representative of the General Public

Vacant, Alternate Commissioner
Representative of the General Public

Keene Simonds
Executive Officer

statements are attached and offered for the Commission's consideration and approval. The adoption of these resolutions would complete the study and fulfill the Commission's service review and sphere review requirement for the District.

Recommendation

It is recommended for the Commission to take the following actions:

1. Receive and file the attached staff reports that have prepared as part of the *Comprehensive Study of the Napa Resource Conservation District*; and
2. Approve the form for the attached resolution with any desired changes that make statements with respect to the Napa County Resource Conservation District pursuant to California Government Code §56430, and
3. Approve the form for the attached resolution with any desire changes that make statements with respect to affirming the sphere of influence for the Napa County Resource Conservation District pursuant to California Government Code §56425; and
4. Direct staff to work with the Napa County Resource Conservation District and other affected agencies to determine if the extension of the District's sphere is warranted to promote and enhance regional conservation services.

Respectfully submitted,

Keene Simonds
Executive Officer

Attachments:

- 1) *Comprehensive Study of the Napa County Resource Conservation District* - Supplement Report: Final Written Determinations
- 2) *Comprehensive Study of the Napa County Resource Conservation District* - Sphere of Influence Review: Final Report
- 3) *Comprehensive Study of the Napa County Resource Conservation District* – Draft Resolution (MSR)
- 4) *Comprehensive Study of the Napa County Resource Conservation District* – Draft Resolution (SOI)



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February 5, 2007
Agenda Item No. 7c

January 29, 2007

TO: Local Agency Formation Commission

FROM: Keene Simonds, Executive Officer

SUBJECT: *Comprehensive Study of the Napa County Resource Conservation District Supplemental Report – Final Written Determinations*

The Commission will review final written determinations that have been prepared by staff as part of the municipal service review portion of the *Comprehensive Study of the Napa County Resource Conservation District*. These determinations make statements that address the nine service factors the Commission is required to consider as part of its service review mandate and are being presented for adoption as part of a separate draft resolution.

Staff has prepared final written determinations as part of the municipal service review portion of the *Comprehensive Study of the Napa County Resource Conservation District*. These determinations draw on information collected as part of an earlier report prepared by P&D Consultants and make statements addressing the nine service factors the Commission is required to consider as part of its service review mandate for the District. These determinations were first presented to the Commission in draft-form at its December 4, 2006 meeting and then circulated to the District and interested parties for review. No comments were received and no changes to the determinations have been made.

Final written determinations are provided below and are being presented to the Commission for consideration and adoption as part of a separate draft resolution. The adoption of written determinations will fulfill the Commission's service review mandate for the District under California Government Code §56430.

WRITTEN DETERMINATIONS:

Infrastructure Needs or Deficiencies (Government Code §56430(a)(1)):

- a) The Napa County Resource Conservation District does not own or maintain substantial infrastructure or equipment. The District relies on staff resources to deliver information and technical assistance to private landowners, organizations, and local jurisdictions involving its conservation services.

Jack Gingles, Chair
 Mayor, City of Calistoga

Cindy Coffey, Commissioner
 Councilmember, City of American Canyon

Juliana Inman, Alternate Commissioner
 Councilmember, City of Napa

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Vacant, Alternate Commissioner
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Keene Simonds
 Executive Officer

- b) The Napa County Resource Conservation District has made a measurable investment in staff over the last 20 years. The increase in staff corresponds with the District's decision to expand the scope of its conservation services to address watershed and urban resource management issues.

Growth and Population Projections (Government Code §56430(a)(2)):

- a) The Napa County Resource Conservation District's jurisdictional boundary includes most of Napa County with the exception of an approximate 1,500 acre inhabited portion of the City of Napa. While specific population projections are not available, all 134,100 people currently estimated by the Association of Bay Area Governments to reside in Napa County benefit from the District's conservation services.
- b) The Association of Bay Area Governments projects an annual population growth rate for Napa County of 0.6 percent over the next 20 years. Although limited, this projected growth rate will contribute to the intensification of land uses and result in the continued demand for conservation services in Napa County.
- c) It is the policy of the County of Napa to direct urban development to the incorporated areas and to preserve surrounding lands for agricultural and open-space uses through restrictive zoning standards. This policy is reflected in the land use policies of the five incorporated cities and helps to ensure that agriculture and open-space remain predominant land uses within the jurisdictional boundary of the Napa County Resource Conservation District.

Financing Constraints and Opportunities (Government Code §56430(a)(3)):

- a) The Napa County Resource Conservation District is primarily funded by intergovernmental revenues, including contracts and grants. The dependency on contracts and grants to fund its conservation services makes the District financially reliant on revenue streams that are subject to external constraints.
- b) The Napa County Resource Conservation District serves as an instrument in securing federal and state grants that would not be otherwise available to fund conservation services in Napa County.
- c) In response to the loss of property tax revenue created by Proposition 13, the Napa County Resource Conservation District has been successful in developing alternative revenue streams to fund and expand its conservation services.

Cost Avoidance Opportunities (Government Code §56430(a)(4)):

- a) Through careful management of its contractual arrangements and grant rewards, the Napa County Resource Conservation District makes a concerted effort to avoid unnecessary expenditures.
- b) The Napa County Resource Conservation District is governed by volunteer board members that are appointed by the County of Napa Board of Supervisors. This appointment process achieves savings for the District by avoiding election costs.

Opportunities for Rate Restructuring (Government Code §56430(a)(5)):

- a) The Napa County Resource Conservation District has developed a fee schedule for the purchase of its maps and publications. The District reviews this fee schedule on a regular basis to ensure that the rates adequately recover its production costs.
- b) The Napa County Resource Conservation District is authorized under its principal act to charge fees for its conservation services. The District should consider establishing a fee schedule that helps to recover its service costs in a manner that does not discourage the public from participating in its conservation programs.

Opportunities for Shared Facilities (Government Code §56430(a)(6)):

- a) The Napa County Resource Conservation District maintains a long-standing partnership with the United States Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service. This partnership, which includes the sharing of office space, equipment, and staff resources, is formalized through a memorandum of understanding and helps to coordinate and enhance local conservation activities.
- b) The Napa County Resource Conservation District works with local agencies, citizens, and organizations on a variety watershed protection and flood prevention projects in Napa County. These projects range from monitoring stream flows to organizing volunteer stewardship groups and help to connect private and public interests to serve common conservation goals.

Government Structure Options (Government Code §56430(a)(7)):

- a) The Napa County Resource Conservation District is the only public agency authorized to provide a full range of soil and water conservation services within its jurisdictional boundary. The conservation services provided by the District are important in restoring and protecting the community's natural resources.

Evaluation of Management Efficiencies (Government Code §56430(a)(8)):

- a) Services for the Napa County Resource Conservation District are guided by adopted annual and long-range work plans that establish conservation goals and objectives. These work plans serve as effective performance measures and encourage management efficiencies by prioritizing District resources in a transparent manner.
- b) The Napa County Resource Conservation District provides a summary of past and projected revenues and expenditures as part of its annual budget. The budget is adopted following a publicly noticed board meeting in which members of the public are allowed to comment and offer suggestions with respect to District expenditures. This budget process establishes efficiencies by providing a clear directive towards staff with respect to prioritizing the resources of the District.

Local Accountability and Governance (Government Code §56430(a)(9)):

- a) The Napa County Resource Conservation District is governed by seven regular and seven associate board members that are appointed by and accountable to the County of Napa Board of Supervisors.
- b) Meetings of the Napa County Resource Conservation District are conducted once a month and are open to the public. These meetings provide an opportunity for District constituents to ask questions of their appointed representatives and help to ensure that service information is being effectively communicated to the public.
- c) The Napa County Resource Conservation District makes concerted efforts to maintain public dialogue with its constituents through various educational and stewardship programs. These efforts foster greater conservation awareness and contribute towards public involvement in District activities.
- d) A long-term challenge for the Napa County Resource Conservation District is securing grants that support and extend local conservation services that are responsive to the needs of the community.

LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION OF NAPA COUNTY

**COMPREHENSIVE STUDY OF THE NAPA COUNTY RESOURCE
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

SPHERE OF INFLUENCE REVIEW

February 2007

Prepared by:

LAFCO of Napa County

Committed to serving the citizens and government agencies of its jurisdiction by encouraging the preservation of agricultural lands and open-space and coordinating the efficient delivery of municipal services.

Jack Gingles, Chair
Brad Wagenknecht, Vice-Chair
Cindy Coffey, Commissioner
Bill Dodd, Commissioner
Brian J. Kelly, Commissioner
Juliana Inman, Alternate Commissioner
Mark Luce, Alternate Commissioner

Keene Simonds, Executive Officer
Jackie Gong, Commission Counsel
Tracy Geraghty, Analyst
Kathy Mabry, Commission Secretary



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INTRODUCTION

Established in 1963, Local Agency Formation Commissions (LAFCOs) are responsible for administering the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 (California Government Code Sections 56000 et. seq.). This legislation empowers LAFCOs with regulatory and planning responsibilities to encourage the orderly formation and development of local agencies in a manner that preserves agricultural and open-space lands and promotes the efficient extension of governmental services. Principal duties include regulating boundary changes through annexations or detachments, approving or disapproving city incorporations, and forming, consolidating, or dissolving special districts. LAFCOs are also responsible for conducting studies that address a range of service and governance issues to inform and direct regional planning goals and objectives. LAFCOs are located in all 58 counties in California.

Among LAFCO's primary planning responsibilities is the designation of a sphere of influence for each city and special district under its jurisdiction.¹ California Government Code §56076 defines a sphere as "a plan for the probable physical boundaries and service area of a local agency, as determined by the Commission." LAFCO establishes, amends, and updates spheres to indicate to local agencies and property owners that, at some future date, a particular area will likely require the services provided by the subject agency. The sphere designation also indicates the agency LAFCO believes to be best situated to serve the subject area. LAFCO is required to review each agency's sphere every five years.

California Government Code §56425(e) directs LAFCO to consider and prepare written statements that address four planning factors when establishing, amending, or updating an agency's sphere. These planning factors are:

- The present and planned land uses in the area, including agricultural and open-space lands.
- The present and probable need for public facilities and services in the area.
- The present capacity of public facilities and adequacy of public services that the agency provides or is authorized to provide.
- The existence of any social or economic communities of interest in the area if the commission determines that they are relevant to the agency.

In addition, when reviewing a sphere for an existing special district, LAFCO must also do the following:

- Require the existing special district to file a written statement with the Commission specifying the functions or classes of services it provides.
- Establish the nature, location, and extent of any functions or classes of services provided by the existing special district.

¹ LAFCOs have been required to determine spheres for cities and special districts since 1972.

Beginning in 2001, to help inform the sphere review process, LAFCO is responsible for preparing a service review. A service review can take on many different forms, including a review of a single agency, or a review of several agencies that provide a similar municipal service. The service review culminates in the preparation of written determinations that address nine specific service factors enumerated under California Government Code §56430. These determinations, which address factors ranging from infrastructure needs or deficiencies to government structure options, must be approved by the Commission in order to prepare an update to an agency's sphere.

Comprehensive Study of the Napa County Resource Conservation District

In May 2006, LAFCO of Napa County initiated its *Comprehensive Study of the Napa County Resource Conservation District*. The study comprises three distinct phases. The first two phases represent the service review portion of the study. These two phases included a description and evaluation of the services provided by the District along with the development of written determinations addressing the nine service factors enumerated under California Government Code §56430. This report represents the sphere review and is the final phase of the study

OVERVIEW

The Napa County Resource Conservation District (NCRCD) was formed in 1945 to provide soil and water conservation services to farmers and ranchers in Napa County. Since its formation, NCRCD has gradually expanded the scope of its conservation services to benefit both non-urban and urban areas. This expansion has included working with citizens, organizations, and local agencies in developing and managing viticulture and watershed projects as well as facilitating volunteer stewardship programs. The majority of NCRCD’s services are provided in partnership with the United States Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resource Conservation Service. This partnership, which includes the sharing of office space, equipment, and staff resources, is formalized through a memorandum of understanding and helps to coordinate and enhance local conservation activities.

NCRCD is governed by an independent board of directors that includes seven regular and seven alternate members that are appointed by the Napa County Board of Supervisors. NCRCD staff includes technical specialists with expertise in a variety of areas, including hydrology and erosion control. NCRCD’s adopted budget over the past three fiscal years has averaged close to \$1.5 million, with the majority of its revenues drawn from intergovernmental grants and contracts.

Napa County Resource Conservation District	
Date Formed	1945
District Type:	Independent
Enabling Legislation	Public Resources Code 9151-9978
Services Provided	Resource Conservation

Adoption of Sphere of Influence

NCRCD’s sphere was established by LAFCO in 1985. The sphere was designated to include all incorporated and unincorporated lands in Napa County as well as approximately 2,070 acres in Solano County, which was annexed into NCRCD in 1952.² There have been no changes to the sphere since its adoption.

Adopted Boundaries and Land Use Authorities

NCRCD’s sphere encompasses approximately 507,489 total acres. Of this amount, approximately 1,300 contiguous acres are located outside NCRCD’s jurisdictional boundary.³ This portion of the sphere represents the City of Napa’s incorporated boundary as of 1945, which was excluded from NCRCD at the time of its formation. A map depicting NCRCD’s current boundaries is provided at the end of this report.

Napa County Resource Conservation District: Adopted Boundaries (Source: County of Napa Geographic Information System: January 2007)	
Sphere of Influence	Jurisdiction
507,489 acres	506,189 acres

² This area is known as “Cullinan Ranch” and is comprised of tidal wetlands that provide habitat for a number of native fish, plants, and wildlife species

³ Approximation calculated using the County of Napa’s Geographic Information System.

NCRCD operates under the land use authorities of seven local jurisdictions. These jurisdictions include the Counties of Napa and Solano, Cities of American Canyon, Calistoga, Napa, St. Helena, and the Town of Yountville. In addition, the federal government owns a substantial portion of unincorporated land in northeast Napa County, including the shoreline of Lake Berryessa. The State of California also owns a substantial portion of unincorporated wetlands in south Napa County. These lands are not subject to local land use policies.

DISCUSSION

The objective of this report is to identify and evaluate areas that warrant consideration for inclusion or removal from NCRCD's sphere as part of a comprehensive review. Underlying this effort is to designate the sphere in a manner that promotes the effective and efficient provision of conservation services in and around Napa County.

ANALYSIS

The analysis conducted as part of the service review portion of this study identifies that NCRCD is providing an adequate and effective level of conservation services within its jurisdictional boundary. These conservation services have been instrumental in enhancing and restoring natural resources for the benefit of both rural and urban areas and have contributed to the preservation of local agricultural and open-space lands. NCRCD has developed sufficient capacities and funding streams to continue to provide an effective level of conservation services within its existing sphere.

LAFCO recognizes that it may be appropriate to extend NCRCD's sphere to include additional lands that are outside its current jurisdictional boundary. Specific areas where the extension of NCRCD's sphere may be appropriate include lands that serve as drainage basins to and from Napa County that are not currently served by another resource conservation district. Additional information is needed to determine whether the extension of the sphere is warranted.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Commission affirm NCRCD's existing sphere, which includes all incorporated and unincorporated lands in Napa County as well as the Cullinan Ranch area in Solano County. It is also recommended that the Commission direct staff to work with NCRCD and other affected agencies to determine if the extension of the District's sphere is warranted to promote and enhance regional conservation services.

Statement of Determinations

Pursuant to California Government Code §56425(d), the following statements have been prepared in support of the recommendation to affirm NCRCD's existing sphere:

1. The present and planned land uses in the area, including agricultural and open-space lands.

The present and future land uses in the area are planned for in the general plans prepared by the seven land use authorities whose jurisdictions overlap the jurisdictional boundary of the Napa County Resource Conservation District. The exercise of the District's conservation services, which benefit both urban and non-urban areas, will not affect the level or type of development identified in the general plans of the land use authorities.

2. The present and probable need for public facilities and services in the area.

The provision of conservation services helps to ensure the protection and restoration of natural resources, which are essential to the social, fiscal, and economical well-being of the area.

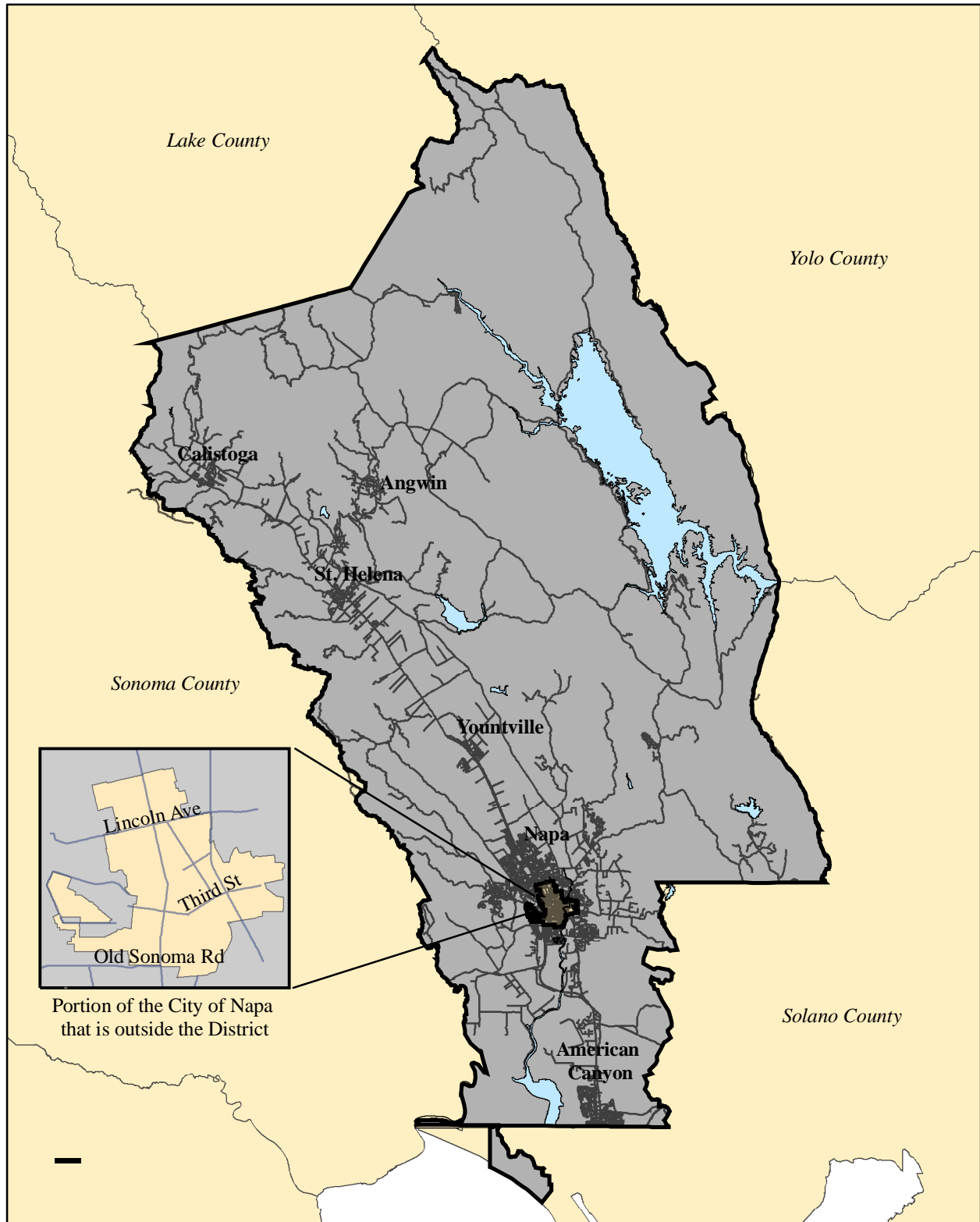
3. The present capacity of public facilities and adequacy of public services that the agency provides or is authorized to provide.

The Napa County Resource Conservation District has developed policies, service plans, and revenue streams to provide adequate and effective conservation services for the area.



4. The existence of any social or economic communities of interest in the area if the commission determines that they are relevant to the agency.

The social and economic well-being of the area is measurably enhanced by the conservation services provided by the Napa County Resource Conservation District.

Napa County Resource Conservation District



Legend

-  Napa County Resource Conservation District
-  Napa County Resource Conservation District Sphere of Influence



*Not to Scale
January 2007
Prepared by KS*



LAFCO of Napa County
1700 Second Street, Suite 268
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(707) 259-8645

RESOLUTION NO. ____**RESOLUTION OF
THE LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION OF NAPA COUNTY
MAKING DETERMINATIONS****COMPREHENSIVE STUDY OF THE NAPA COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW**

WHEREAS, the Local Agency Formation Commission of Napa County (hereinafter referred to as “the Commission”) may conduct municipal service reviews of local agencies pursuant to the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 (Government Code Sections 56000 et seq., hereinafter referred to as “Act”); and

WHEREAS, the Commission adopted a schedule for service reviews on October 11, 2001; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Government Code Section 56430, the Executive Officer designated a municipal service review of the Napa County Resource Conservation District; and

WHEREAS, the geographic area of this municipal service review includes all lands within the existing jurisdictional boundary of the Napa County Resource Conservation District; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to its adopted schedule, the Commission held an initial public meeting on the “Comprehensive Study of the Napa County Resource Conservation District” on October 2, 2006; and

WHEREAS, the Executive Officer prepared a written report of this municipal service review that was presented to the Commission in the manner provided by law; and

WHEREAS, the Commission heard and fully considered all the evidence presented at its public meetings concerning the “Comprehensive Study of the Napa County Resource Conservation District” on October 2, 2006, December 4, 2006, and February 5, 2007; and

WHEREAS, as part of this municipal service review, the Commission is required pursuant to Government Code Section 56430(a) to make a statement of written determinations with regards to certain factors.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE COMMISSION DOES HEREBY RESOLVE, DETERMINE, AND ORDER as follows:

**COMPREHENSIVE STUDY OF THE NAPA COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW**

1. In accordance with the adopted Local Agency Formation Commission Environmental Impact Report Guidelines, and applicable provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Commission hereby determines that this municipal service review is exempt from the provisions of CEQA under Section 15306 of the State CEQA Guidelines (Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations Section 15306). The municipal service review is a data collection and research study. The information contained within the municipal service review may be used to consider future actions that will be subject to environmental review.

2. The Commission adopts the statement of determinations set forth in "Exhibit A" which is attached and hereby incorporated by reference.

The foregoing resolution was duly and regularly adopted by the Local Agency Formation Commission of Napa County, State of California, at a regular meeting held on the 5th day of February, 2007, by the following vote:

AYES: Commissioners _____

NOES: Commissioners _____

ABSENT: Commissioners _____

ABSTAIN: Commissioners _____

ATTEST: Keene Simonds
 Executive Officer

Prepared by: _____
 Kathy Mabry
 Commission Secretary

EXHIBIT A

COMPREHENSIVE STUDY OF THE NAPA COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW

STATEMENT OF DETERMINATIONS

1. With respect to infrastructure needs or deficiencies [Government Code §56430(a) (1)], the Commission determines that:
 - a) The Napa County Resource Conservation District does not own or maintain substantial infrastructure or equipment. The District relies on staff resources to deliver information and technical assistance to private landowners, organizations, and local jurisdictions involving its conservation services.
 - b) The Napa County Resource Conservation District has made a measurable investment in staff over the last 20 years. The increase in staff corresponds with the District's decision to expand the scope of its conservation services to address watershed and urban resource management issues.

2. With respect to growth and population projections for the affected area [Government Code §56430(a) (2)], the Commission determines that:
 - a) The Napa County Resource Conservation District's jurisdictional boundary includes most of Napa County with the exception of an approximate 1,500 acre inhabited portion of the City of Napa. While specific population projections are not available, all 134,100 people currently estimated by the Association of Bay Area Governments to reside in Napa County benefit from the District's conservation services.
 - b) The Association of Bay Area Governments projects an annual population growth rate for Napa County of 0.6 percent over the next 20 years. Although limited, this projected growth rate will contribute to the intensification of land uses and result in the continued demand for conservation services in Napa County.
 - c) It is the policy of the County of Napa to direct urban development to the incorporated areas and to preserve surrounding lands for agricultural and open-space uses through restrictive zoning standards. This policy is reflected in the land use policies of the five incorporated cities and helps to ensure that agriculture and open-space remain predominant land uses within the jurisdictional boundary of the Napa County Resource Conservation District.

3. With respect to financing constraints and opportunities [Government Code §56430(a) (3)], the Commission determines that:

Exhibit A

- a) The Napa County Resource Conservation District is primarily funded by intergovernmental revenues, including contracts and grants. The dependency on contracts and grants to fund its conservation services makes the District financially reliant on revenue streams that are subject to external constraints.
 - b) The Napa County Resource Conservation District serves as an instrument in securing federal and state grants that would not be otherwise available to fund conservation services in Napa County.
 - c) In response to the loss of property tax revenue created by Proposition 13, the Napa County Resource Conservation District has been successful in developing alternative revenue streams to fund and expand its conservation services.
4. With respect to cost avoidance opportunities [Government Code §56430(a) (4)], the Commission determines that:
- a) Through careful management of its contractual arrangements and grant rewards, the Napa County Resource Conservation District makes a concerted effort to avoid unnecessary expenditures.
 - b) The Napa County Resource Conservation District is governed by volunteer board members that are appointed by the County of Napa Board of Supervisors. This appointment process achieves savings for the District by avoiding election costs.
5. With respect to opportunities for rate restructuring [Government Code §56430(a) (5)], the Commission determines that:
- a) The Napa County Resource Conservation District has developed a fee schedule for the purchase of its maps and publications. The District reviews this fee schedule on a regular basis to ensure that the rates adequately recover its production costs.
 - b) The Napa County Resource Conservation District is authorized under its principal act to charge fees for its conservation services. The District should consider establishing a fee schedule that helps to recover its service costs in a manner that does not discourage the public from participating in its conservation programs.

Exhibit A

6. With respect to opportunities for shared facilities [Government Code §56430(a) (6)], the Commission determines that:
 - a) The Napa County Resource Conservation District maintains a long-standing partnership with the United States Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service. This partnership, which includes the sharing of office space, equipment, and staff resources, is formalized through a memorandum of understanding and helps to coordinate and enhance local conservation activities.
 - b) The Napa County Resource Conservation District works with local agencies, citizens, and organizations on a variety watershed protection and flood prevention projects in Napa County. These projects range from monitoring stream flows to organizing volunteer stewardship groups and help to connect private and public interests to serve common conservation goals.

7. With respect to government structure options, including advantages and disadvantages of consolidation or reorganization of service providers [Government Code §56430(a) (7)], the Commission determines that:
 - a) The Napa County Resource Conservation District is the only public agency authorized to provide a full range of soil and water conservation services within its jurisdictional boundary. The conservation services provided by the District are important in restoring and protecting the community's natural resources.

8. With respect to evaluation of management efficiencies [Government Code §56430(a) (8)], the Commission determines that:
 - a) Services for the Napa County Resource Conservation District are guided by adopted annual and long-range work plans that establish conservation goals and objectives. These work plans serve as effective performance measures and encourage management efficiencies by prioritizing District resources in a transparent manner.
 - b) The Napa County Resource Conservation District provides a summary of past and projected revenues and expenditures as part of its annual budget. The budget is adopted following a publicly noticed board meeting in which members of the public are allowed to comment and offer suggestions with respect to District expenditures. This budget process establishes efficiencies by providing a clear directive towards staff with respect to prioritizing the resources of the District.

Exhibit A

9. With respect to local accountability and governance [Government Code §56430(a) (9)], the Commission determines that:
 - a) The Napa County Resource Conservation District is governed by seven regular and seven associate board members that are appointed by and accountable to the County of Napa Board of Supervisors.
 - b) Meetings of the Napa County Resource Conservation District are conducted once a month and are open to the public. These meetings provide an opportunity for District constituents to ask questions of their appointed representatives and help to ensure that service information is being effectively communicated to the public.
 - c) The Napa County Resource Conservation District makes concerted efforts to maintain public dialogue with its constituents through various educational and stewardship programs. These efforts foster greater conservation awareness and contribute towards public involvement in District activities.
 - d) A long-term challenge for the Napa County Resource Conservation District is securing grants that support and extend local conservation services that are responsive to the needs of the community.

RESOLUTION NO. ____

**RESOLUTION OF THE
LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION OF NAPA COUNTY
MAKING DETERMINATIONS**

**COMPREHENSIVE STUDY OF THE NAPA COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
SPHERE OF INFLUENCE UPDATE**

WHEREAS, the Local Agency Formation Commission of Napa County, hereinafter referred to as “the Commission”, adopted a schedule to conduct studies of the provision of municipal services within Napa County and studies of spheres of influence of the local governmental agencies whose jurisdictions are within Napa County; and

WHEREAS, the Executive Officer of the Commission, hereinafter referred to as “the Executive Officer”, prepared a review of the sphere of influence of the Napa County Resource Conservation District pursuant to said schedule and Title 5, Division 3, commencing with Section 56000 of the California Government Code; and

WHEREAS, the Executive Officer prepared a written report of this review, including his recommendation to affirm the existing sphere of influence; and

WHEREAS, said Executive Officer’s report has been presented to the Commission in the manner provided by law; and

WHEREAS, the Commission heard and fully considered all the evidence presented at a public meeting held on February 5th, 2007; and

WHEREAS, the Commission considered all the factors required by law under Section 56425 of the California Government Code.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE COMMISSION DOES HEREBY RESOLVE, DETERMINE, AND ORDER as follows:

1. The Commission hereby determines that an action to affirm an agency’s existing sphere of influence qualifies for a general exemption from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Approval to affirm an existing sphere of influence will not result in any land use changes or physical impacts to the environment. This proposal qualifies for a general exemption under CEQA because there is no possibility that it will adversely affect the environment [CEQA Guidelines, Section 15601(b)(3)].
2. The proposal to affirm the existing sphere of influence for the Napa County Resource Conservation District is APPROVED.

3. This sphere of influence update is assigned the following distinctive short-term designation:

**NAPA COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
SPHERE OF INFLUENCE UPDATE**

4. The sphere of influence for the Napa County Resource Conservation District is hereby affirmed to include the affected territory as shown on the attached vicinity map identified as "Exhibit A."
5. Pursuant to Section 56425 of the Government Code, the Commission makes the statements of determinations in the attached "Exhibit B."
6. The effective date of this sphere of influence update shall be final upon the receipt by the Executive Officer of a written statement by the Napa County Resource Conservation District pursuant to Section 56425(h) of the Government Code.
7. The Executive Officer shall revise the official records of the Commission to reflect this change to the sphere of influence.

The foregoing resolution was duly and regularly adopted by the Local Agency Formation Commission of the County of Napa, State of California, at a meeting held on the 5th day of February, 2007, by the following vote:

AYES: Commissioners _____

NOES: Commissioners _____

ABSENT: Commissioners _____

ABSTAIN: Commissioners _____

ATTEST: Keene Simonds
 Executive Officer

Prepared by: _____
 Kathy Mabry
 Commission Secretary

EXHIBIT B
STATEMENT OF DETERMINATIONS

NAPA COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
SPHERE OF INFLUENCE UPDATE

1. With respect to the present and planned land uses in the area, including agricultural and open-space lands, the Commission determines:

The present and future land uses in the area are planned for in the general plans prepared by the seven land use authorities whose jurisdictions overlap the jurisdictional boundary of the Napa County Resource Conservation District. The exercise of the District's conservation services, which benefit both urban and non-urban areas, will not affect the level or type of development identified in the general plans of the land use authorities.

2. With respect to the present and probable need for public facilities and services in the area, the Commission determines:

The provision of conservation services helps to ensure the protection and restoration of natural resources, which are essential to the social, fiscal, and economical well-being of the area.

3. With respect to the present capacity of public facilities and adequacy of public services that the agency provides or is authorized to provide, the Commission determines:

The Napa County Resource Conservation District has developed policies, service plans, and revenue streams to provide adequate and effective conservation services for the area.

4. With respect to the existence of any social or economic communities of interest in the area if the Commission determines that they are relevant to the agency, the Commission determines:

The social and economic well-being of the area is measurably enhanced by the conservation services provided by the Napa County Resource Conservation District.