



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>

Agenda Item No. 8a
August 6, 2007

July 31, 2007

TO: Local Agency Formation Commission

FROM: Keene Simonds, Executive Officer

SUBJECT: American Canyon Fire Protection District – Sphere of Influence Review (Discussion)

The Commission will receive a report from staff identifying final study categories and evaluation criteria for the scheduled sphere of influence review of the American Canyon Fire Protection District. The report is being presented to the Commission for discussion.

The Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 requires Local Agency Formation Commissions (LAFCOs) to review each city and special district's sphere of influence by January 1, 2008 and every five years thereafter as necessary. 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 affected area.

Background

In January 2007, staff initiated LAFCO of Napa County's scheduled sphere review of the American Canyon Fire Protection District (ACFPD). ACFPD was established in 1957 and is responsible for providing fire protection and emergency medical services to an approximate 6.0 square mile area that includes all of the City of American Canyon. ACFPD's sphere was established by LAFCO in 1975 and updated in 1982. In updating the sphere, the Commission emphasized the role of ACFPD as an urban service provider and established a dual annexation policy involving the American Canyon County Water District. This policy was amended to involve American Canyon at the time of its incorporation in 1992.

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Representative of the General Public

Gregory Rodeno, Alternate Commissioner
Representative of the General Public

Keene Simonds
Executive Officer

At the February 5, 2007 meeting, staff presented the Commission with an initial report on the sphere review for ACFPD. The initial report outlined the criteria used by staff in developing four draft study categories, identified as “A,” “B,” “C,” and “D.” In the course of discussing the initial report, the Commission received comments from ACFPD, American Canyon, and the County of Napa requesting an opportunity to provide input to LAFCO regarding the development of the sphere review. In particular, all three agencies expressed interest in reviewing the criteria LAFCO will use in evaluating each study category. ACFPD also requested LAFCO consider a fifth study category encompassing all incorporated and unincorporated lands south of Fagan Creek and west and east to the Napa River and Solano County, respectively. At the conclusion of its discussion, the Commission directed staff to solicit feedback from the agencies in developing final study categories and review criteria for presentation at a future meeting.

On March 12, 2007, staff sent a letter to ACFPD, American Canyon, and County inviting comments on LAFCO’s sphere review of the District. The letter outlined the four study categories developed by staff as well as the fifth study category proposed by ACFPD. Summaries of all five study categories presented in the letter are provided below.

Study Category A

Represents two non-contiguous areas that are located outside ACFPD’s sphere, but within American Canyon’s sphere. The affected areas are collectively 152 acres in size and would be evaluated to consider whether they should be added to ACFPD’s existing sphere.

Study Category B

Represents two non-contiguous areas that are located outside ACFPD’s sphere, but already within its jurisdictional boundary. The affected areas are collectively 62 acres in size and would be evaluated to consider whether they should be added to ACFPD’s existing sphere.

Study Category C

Represents two non-contiguous areas that are located outside ACFPD’s sphere, but designated for an urban use by the County and/or American Canyon. The affected areas are collectively 1,019 acres in size and would be evaluated to consider whether they should be added to ACFPD’s existing sphere.

Study Category D

Represents one contiguous area that is located inside ACFPD’s sphere, but outside its jurisdictional boundary and designated for a non-urban use by the County and American Canyon. The affected area is 144 acres in size and would be evaluated to consider whether it should be removed from ACFPD’s existing sphere.

Study Category E

Represents one contiguous area that is located outside ACFPD's sphere that has been proposed for inclusion by the District. The affected area is 6,500 acres in size and overlaps with Study Categories A, B, C, and D and extends outside the existing sphere north to Fagan Creek, west to the Napa River, and east to Solano County.

- * A map depicting Study Categories A, B, C, and D is provided in Attachment One.
- * A map depicting Study Category E is provided in Attachment Two.

In addition to outlining study categories, the March letter discussed the criteria staff would use in evaluating the merits of including or removing areas from ACFPD's sphere. The criteria discussed in the letter focuses on addressing the four planning factors the Commission is required to consider when making a sphere determination under state law (California Government Code §56425) and is included in Attachment Three.

Discussion

Over the last several months staff has met with representatives from ACFPD, American Canyon, and the County to discuss the proposed study categories and evaluation criteria. These discussions have occurred in sequence with separate negotiations between American Canyon and the County regarding long-term land use and service planning in south Napa County. Significantly, the negotiations between American Canyon and the County have raised important questions regarding the appropriate level and range of governmental services in the area. These negotiations also highlight a joint effort by American Canyon and the County to coordinate their respective land use policies.

Recent discussions between ACFPD, American Canyon, and the County have produced a working agreement to defer consideration of any significant changes to the District's sphere at this time. This agreement reflects a consensus among all three agencies that the negotiations between American Canyon and the County supersede and help inform future discussions regarding fire protection services in south Napa County.

Substantively, drawing from the aforementioned agreement, ACFPD has notified staff that the District is deferring its request that LAFCO consider amending the sphere to include lands located in Study Category E. Staff has also been notified by the County that it does not object to the expansion of ACFPD's sphere to include lands in Study Categories A and B. Additionally, the County does not oppose the continued inclusion of lands located in Study Category D in the sphere if "the Commission adopts a policy recognizing that inclusion of parcels in the District's sphere does not ensure inclusion of those parcels in American Canyon's sphere or the eventual annexation of those parcels into the City."

- * Copies of all written comments provided to LAFCO concerning the sphere review are provided in Attachment Four.

Conclusion

Based on the input received from the affected agencies, staff believes it is appropriate that LAFCO limit its analysis and consider only modifications to ACFPD's sphere involving Study Categories A, B, and D at this time. The decision to limit the sphere review to these three study categories is consistent with the general practice of the Commission to encourage and facilitate interagency cooperation and planning as it relates to public service provision. In evaluating Study Categories A, B, and D, staff will utilize the criteria outlined in Attachment Three. Staff will also evaluate the County's policy request regarding Study Category D as discussed on page three of this report.

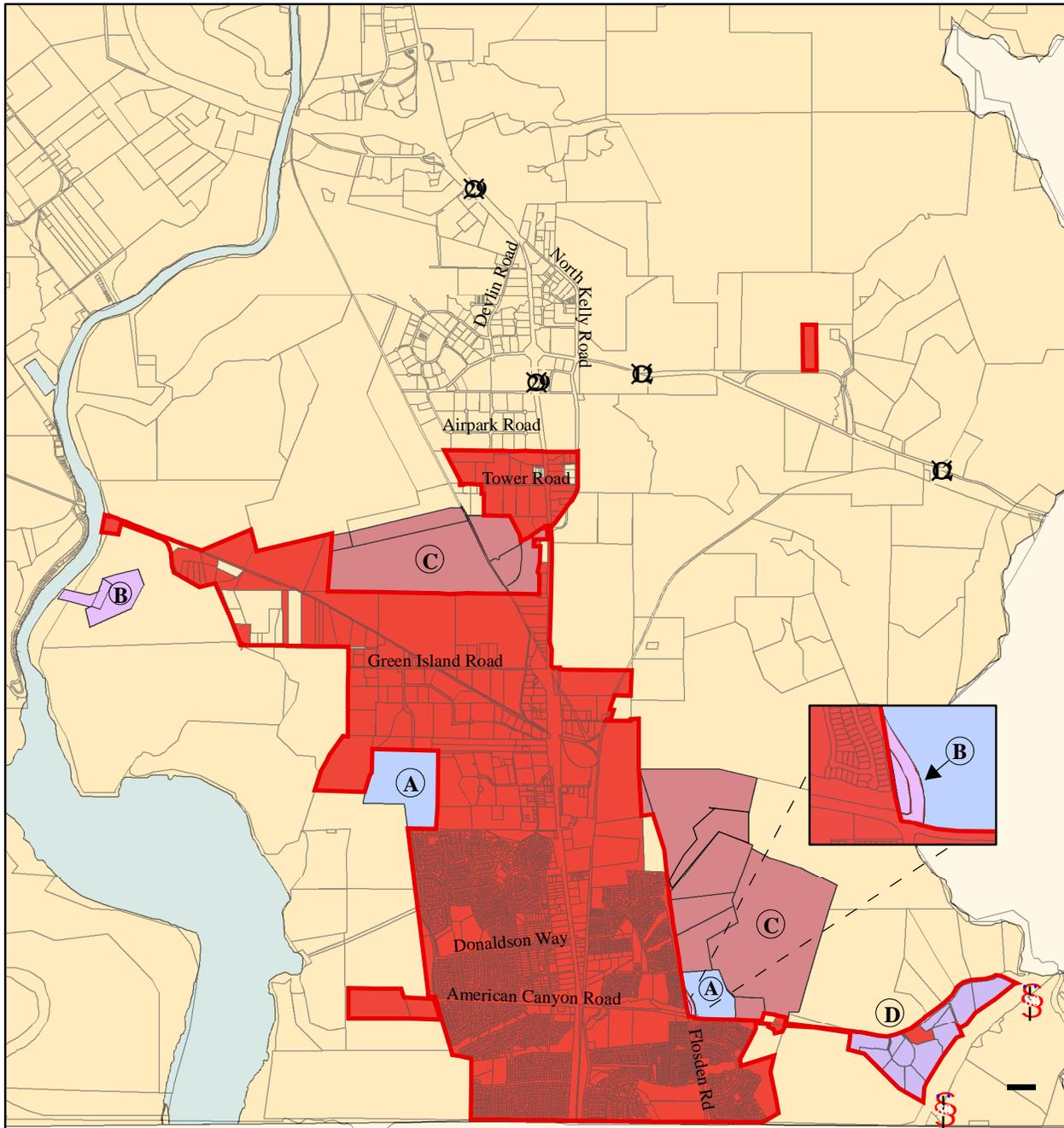
Staff will continue to document Study Categories D and E as part of sphere review for the administrative record. However, staff will not offer analysis or recommendations with respect to potential modifications involving these two study categories.

Staff anticipates presenting a report on the sphere review with recommendations at the Commission's October 1, 2007 meeting.

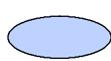
Attachments:

- 1) Map depicting Study Categories A, B, C and D
- 2) Map depicting Study Category E
- 3) Evaluation Criteria
- 4) Written Comments:
 - (a) Letter from ACFPD, dated February 5, 2007
 - (b) Letter from the County, dated May 2, 2007
 - (c) Letter from the County, dated July 25, 2007

American Canyon Fire Protection District

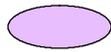


Study Categories



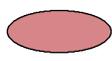
Study Category A

Emphasis reflects areas that are outside the ACFPD sphere, but inside the American Canyon sphere.



Study Category B

Emphasis reflects areas that are inside ACFPD's jurisdiction, but outside its sphere.



Study Category C

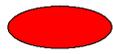
Emphasis reflects areas that are outside the ACFPD sphere, but designated for an urban use by American Canyon and/or the County.



Study Category D

Emphasis reflects areas that are inside the ACFPD sphere, but designated for a non-urban use by the County.

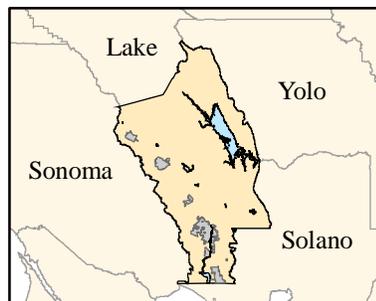
Legend



American Canyon Fire Protection District



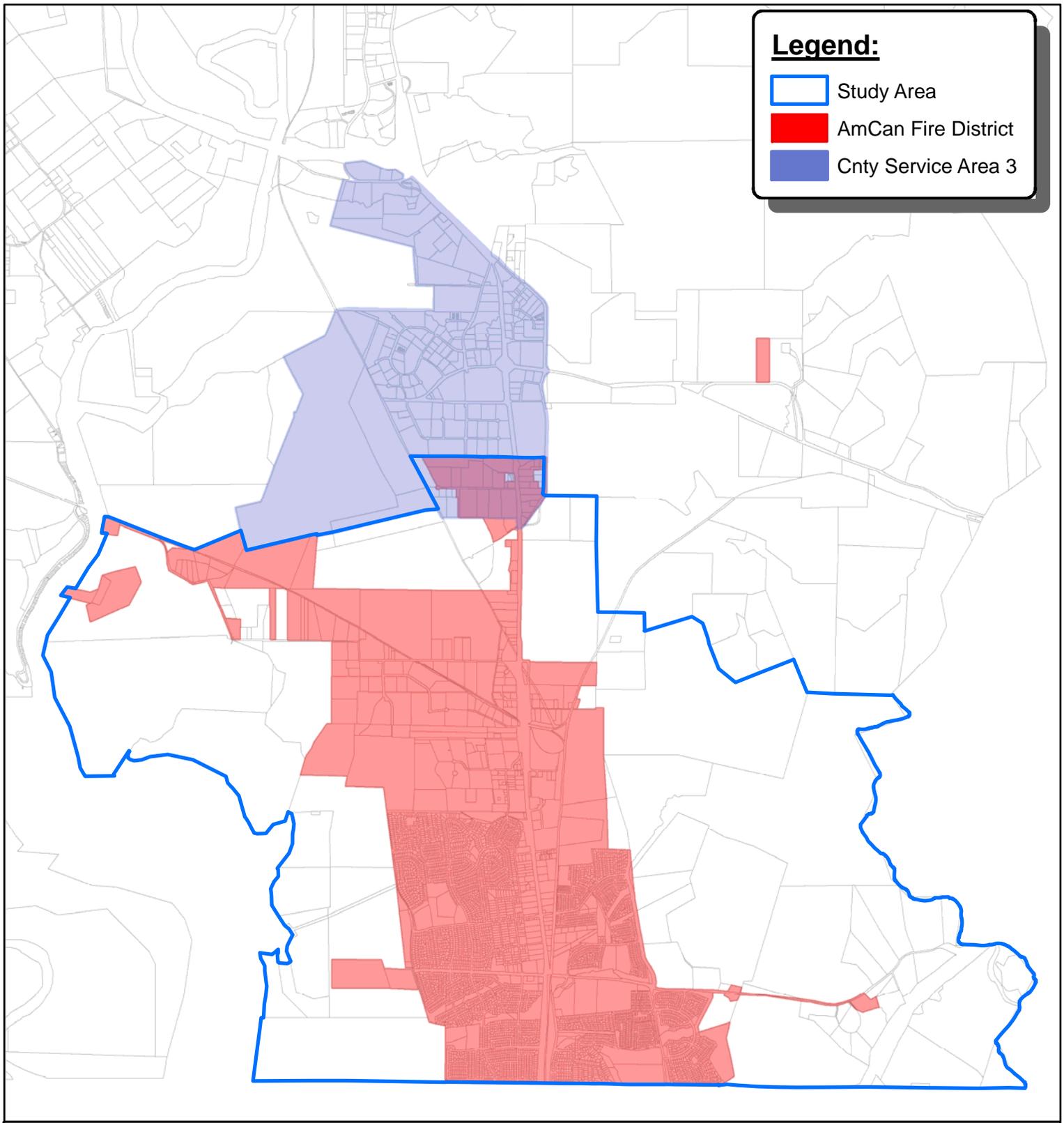
American Canyon Fire Protection District Sphere of Influence



*Not to Scale
April 2007
Prepared by KS*



LAFCO of Napa County
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(707) 259-8645



Legend:

-  Study Area
-  AmCan Fire District
-  Cnty Service Area 3



AMERICAN CANYON
FIRE DISTRICT SPHERE
OF INFLUENCE STUDY AREA

