

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.