



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

1600 PACIFIC HIGHWAY, ROOM 335, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92101-2470

AGENDA ITEM

DATE: February 2, 2016

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TO: Board of Supervisors

SUBJECT: NOTICED PUBLIC HEARING - IMPROVING FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY SERVICES IN UNINCORPORATED SAN DIEGO COUNTY; EXTENDING STRUCTURAL FIRE PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES TO UNINCORPORATED SERVICE ISLANDS NOS. 2, 3 AND 4 (DISTRICTS: ALL)

Overview

On June 25, 2008 (1), the Board of Supervisors (Board) adopted The Hybrid Plan and authorized the plan's multi-step implementation to improve fire protection and emergency medical services in the unincorporated area. Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) approval allowed the County to initiate the first step of the Hybrid Plan and begin the reorganization and consolidation of fire protection within 1.56 million acres of the unincorporated area. However, a small number of islands were left out of the fire agency reorganization project where there is not an agency responsible for emergency services. Today's action would facilitate the extension of structural fire protection and emergency medical services to the unserved islands.

This is a request to authorize an application to LAFCO to amend the sphere of influence of County Service Area (CSA) 135 and expand the latent powers area within CSA 135 to include the territory of the unincorporated service islands nos. 2, 3, and 4.

Recommendation(s)

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN JACOB AND SUPERVISOR COX

1. Find that the proposed action is exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review under Section 15061(b)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines for the reasons stated in the Notice of Exemption dated February 2, 2016 on file at the Clerk of the Board.
2. Adopt the attached resolution entitled: "Resolution of Application to Amend the Sphere of Influence of the Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services Subarea of County Service Area No. 135 and Expand the Area Within CSA 135 Where the Latent Powers of Fire Protection and Emergency Services Are Exercised Per Authorization By the San Diego Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO), Into the Territory Known As

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Unincorporated Service Islands Nos. 2, 3, and 4”.

Fiscal Impact

The fiscal impact is unknown at this time. Upon approval of the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) application, the terms and conditions associated with the expansion of latent powers in the subarea of County Service Area (CSA) 135 may result in a fiscal impact. The San Diego County Fire Authority will return to the Board to appropriate funds as necessary. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

Business Impact Statement

N/A

Advisory Board Statement

N/A

Background

The Hybrid Plan has effectively improved fire and emergency medical services in the unincorporated County through reorganization and the activation of latent powers for structural fire protection and emergency medical services within an unincorporated section of County Service Area (CSA) 135. However, the plan did not include a small number of unserved island areas outside of the jurisdictional boundaries of existing fire protection agencies which remain without emergency services. County unincorporated service islands nos. 2, 3, and 4 were not included in The Hybrid Plan and the latent powers area of CSA 135 because a volunteer operation or overlying local agency that provides emergency services was not present.

The mixture of development characteristics in these unserved island areas has resulted in structural fires, medical emergencies, traffic accidents, and rescue incidents to which surrounding jurisdictions have responded without regard to reimbursement or reciprocal response. Residential development within these unserved islands does not generate sufficient revenue to support a discrete fire protection operation, and insufficient revenue prevents these areas from annexing into neighboring districts and/or cities.

Therefore, this action recommends the adoption of a resolution of application to LAFCO (Attachment A) to amend the sphere of influence of CSA 135 and expand the latent powers area within CSA 135 to provide structural fire protection and emergency medical services to unincorporated service islands no. 2, 3 and 4. The County, through the San Diego County Fire Authority and its CAL FIRE partners would assume the primary role as service provider to these areas, along with the participation of current automatic/mutual aid agreements.

Environmental Statement

Pursuant to the Notice of Exemption filed February 2, 2016, the proposed sphere of influence amendment and expansion of the fire protection and emergency medical services latent powers

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area of CSA No. 135 are categorically exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines because it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment.

Linkage to the County of San Diego Strategic Plan

Today's proposed action supports the Safe Communities Initiative of the County of San Diego's 2015-2020 Strategic Plan by improving emergency preparedness for and response to both natural and man-made disasters.

Respectfully submitted,

DIANNE JACOB
Supervisor, 2nd District

GREG COX
Supervisor, 1st District

ATTACHMENT(S)

Attachment A Resolution of Application to Amend the Sphere of Influence of the Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Service Subarea of County Service Area No. 135 and Expand the Area Within CSA 135 Where the Latent Powers of Fire Protection and Emergency Services Are Exercised Per Authorization By the San Diego Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO), Into the Territory Known As Unincorporated Service Islands Nos. 2, 3, and 4

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AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET

REQUIRES FOUR VOTES: Yes No

WRITTEN DISCLOSURE PER COUNTY CHARTER SECTION 1000.1 REQUIRED
 Yes No

PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOARD ACTIONS:

June 25, 2008 (1), Improving Fire and Life Safety Services in Unincorporated San Diego County

BOARD POLICIES APPLICABLE:

N/A

BOARD POLICY STATEMENTS:

N/A

MANDATORY COMPLIANCE:

N/A

ORACLE AWARD NUMBER(S) AND CONTRACT AND/OR REQUISITION NUMBER(S):

N/A

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Supervisor Jacob and Supervisor Cox

OTHER CONCURRENCES(S): N/A

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