



CITY OF LONG BEACH

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND BUILDING

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February 7, 2006

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
City of Long Beach
California

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt the attached resolution supporting the retention of the City's existing Sphere of Influence (SOI) area, and the addition of a Joint Long Beach-Compton SOI area, and instruct the Director of Planning and Building to submit this resolution to the Los Angeles County Local Agency Formation Commission. (Citywide)

DISCUSSION

In September of 2005, the Los Angeles County Local Agency Formation Commission (LA LAFCO) released its first Draft Municipal Service Reviews (DMSR) for the Gateway Cities communities. Municipal Service Reviews are a new tool being used by LAFCO's (State agencies) to determine whether or not a local jurisdiction can adequately provide municipal services to an adjacent unincorporated county area. If a positive finding is made, a Sphere of Influence (SOI) is assigned to the adjacent city. That city could then apply for an annexation of that area. The DMSR recommended that 640 acres of industrial land in the Rancho Dominguez SOI area, that has been assigned to the City of Long Beach since 1973, be reassigned to the City of Carson (map attached).

On October 18, 2005, the Department of Planning and Building voiced the City's objection to the DMSR recommendation at the LA LAFCO public workshop in Paramount and submitted a letter to the Executive Officer detailing the City's concerns and specifying errors and omissions in the DMSR report. This action was reinforced on November 15, 2005, when the City Council reviewed staff's report and unanimously supported submitting a resolution to LA LAFCO objecting to the reassignment of this portion of the Rancho Dominguez SOI area.

After meeting with City of Long Beach representatives and considering the information submitted, LA LAFCO staff revised the Municipal Services Review. The revised recommendation calls for the City of Long Beach to maintain its current SOI for the eastern portion of Rancho Dominguez, and also be assigned a new joint City of Long Beach – City of Compton SOI for a portion of the Rancho Dominguez area that is currently assigned to the City of Compton.

This additional SOI area consists of approximately 230 industrially developed acres located immediately adjacent to the current City of Long Beach SOI area, and is located east of Alameda Street between Susana Road and the I-91 Artesia Freeway. The Department of Planning and Building looks favorably upon having either sole or joint assignment of this additional SOI area along with the City of Compton. The assignment of a Joint SOI essentially means that the LA LAFCO Board will accept annexation applications from either city for consideration.

On December 14, 2005, the LA LAFCO Board held a public hearing to review the DMSR and each of the recommendations contained therein for all SOI areas in the Gateway Cities communities. At that hearing, Councilmember Bonnie Lowenthal provided public testimony supporting the LA LAFCO staff recommendation and objecting to the reassignment or sharing of these 640 SOI acres to the City of Carson. Testimony was then provided by Mayor Jim Dear of the City of Carson. During his testimony, Mayor Dear argued that the entire Rancho Dominguez area should be within Carson's SOI, due to the historic and geographic ties. As a possible alternative, Mayor Dear has also discussed placing the area in a joint City of Carson – City of Long Beach SOI, thereby allowing each city to file for competing annexation applications.

Representatives from the Cities of Compton and Carson requested a continuance in order to have more time to consider the revised staff recommendation. After considering public testimony, LA LAFCO voted to continue the matter until their meeting of February 22, 2006, and asked the cities involved to obtain a definitive decision on the LA LAFCO staff recommendation. Hence, the Department of Planning and Building is now recommending that the Long Beach City Council adopt a resolution supporting the retention of our current SOI area and the expansion of the SOI area (as depicted on the attached map), whether it be in our sole jurisdiction or as a joint SOI with the City of Compton, consistent with the LA LAFCO staff recommendation. The Department of Planning and Building does not support placing any areas in a joint SOI with the City of Carson, as it is contrary to the direction previously provided by the City Council and simply puts off a decision by LA LAFCO on this matter.

Assistant City Attorney Michael Mais reviewed this item on January 24, 2006.

TIMING CONSIDERATIONS

City Council review and discussion of this report is requested on February 7, 2006, in order to submit this resolution to LA LAFCO prior to its hearing on February 22, 2006.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

SUGGESTED ACTION:

Approve recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,



SUZANNE FRICK
DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND BUILDING

SF/GC/kmb

Attachments: Map
Resolution

APPROVED:



GERALD R. MILLER
CITY MANAGER