



Lou Ann Teixeira
 Executive Officer

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February 8, 2017 (Agenda)

February 8, 2017
 Agenda Item 6

Contra Costa Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO)
 651 Pine Street, Sixth Floor
 Martinez, CA 94553

Update – Knightsen Town Community Services District

Dear Members of the Commission:

BACKGROUND

In 2014, the Commission approved its 2nd round Water/Wastewater Municipal Service Review (MSR) which covered eight cities and 21 special districts. In conjunction with the MSR, the Commission updated the spheres of influence (SOIs) for all of the districts. The Knightsen Town Community Services (KTCSD) was one of the districts covered in the MSR.

KTCSD was formed in 2005 to provide flood control and water quality (drainage services) for the unincorporated community of Knightsen, which is an area of low elevation that receives runoff flow from nearby areas. The area is largely agricultural, with an estimated population of 1,568 residents. The area is in need of detention basins and facilities to treat storm water runoff. The 2008 MSR identified concerns with the District and lack of services/programs. KTCSD does not currently provide any physical services related to its original purpose due to a lack of funds to construct the facilities. KTCSD owns no physical assets or improvements. KTCSD continues to seek funding and has partnered with a habitat conservancy group to apply for grant funding opportunities.

The 2014 MSR included the following SOI options:

- Retain existing coterminous SOI and designate the area as a “special study area”
- Adopt provisional SOI
- Adopt zero SOI

During the April 2014 LAFCO meeting, Mitch Avalon, representing Contra Costa County Public Works, spoke in support of the work being done by KTCSD to address the serious issue of flooding in the Knightsen area, and that the County did not support the dissolution of KTCSD. Mr. Avalon commented on the reasons the District was formed and the physical and financial challenges the area faces. He also commented that the District is working on planning and

funding efforts, which take time, and that KTCSD is making steady progress in achieving its goals.

At LAFCO's May 2014 and June 2014 public hearings on the MSR and SOI updates, Linda Weekes, then Chair of the KTCSD, addressed the Commission. She reported that KTCSD had submitted two grant proposals to the Department of Water Resources (one failed due to lack of land). She also noted that the District had presented a land acquisition proposal to three landowners, and that the District was waiting to hear further from the landowners.

Ultimately, the Commission adopted a resolution retaining the existing SOI and requiring the KTCSD to provide progress reports to LAFCO annually until the next MSR cycle. The updates were to include a progress report addressing services, facilities, funding, administrative and governance issues identified in the 2014 MSR report.

Ms. Weekes contacted the LAFCO office several times between 2015 and 2016 and provided verbal updates to LAFCO staff.

In the past two years, there has been turnover in the KTCSD Board, whose members also serve as the Board of the Knightsen Town Advisory Council (KTAC). In November 2016, LAFCO staff met with Steve Ohmstede, the new Chair of KTCSD; and he agreed to provide an update to LAFCO. Mr. Ohmstede invited Mitch Avalon from Contra Costa County Flood Control (CCCFC) to participate in the presentation. The update will cover the following topics and will allow time for Commissioner questions.

- ❖ Current KTCSD board and staff
- ❖ Form 700 compliance
- ❖ Adopted budgets
- ❖ Adopted major project list
- ❖ Completed financial reports (year-end report, financial audits, financial statements, etc.)
- ❖ Major flood control project
 - Parties involved (i.e., KTCSD, CCCFC, East Bay Regional Parks District, East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy).
 - 680 acre land purchase
 - MOU
 - Coordination with County Public Works
- ❖ New Hydrology study with ESA/Environmental Hydrology
- ❖ Activities Timetable

RECOMMENDATIONS: Receive the KTCSD update.

Sincerely,

LOU ANN TEXEIRA
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

c: Steve Ohmstede, Chair, KTCSD
Mitch Avalon, CCCFC