



VENTURA LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION
STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: May 17, 2023

TO: LAFCo Commissioners

FROM: Andrea Ozdy, Deputy Executive Officer *Andrea Ozdy*

SUBJECT: Sphere of Influence Review:
 LAFCo 23-12S Ventura Regional Sanitation District

Recommendations:

- A. Determine that the action to review the sphere of influence for Ventura Regional Sanitation District (VRSD or District) is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines.
- B. Adopt Resolution LAFCo 23-12S (Attachment 2) making determinations and reviewing the sphere of influence for the District pursuant to Government Code Section 56425(g), including that a sphere of influence update is not necessary.

Background:

Pursuant to the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 (Government Code Section 56000 et seq.), the Commission was required to determine and adopt a sphere of influence (or “sphere”) for each city and special district on or before January 1, 2008. A sphere of influence is defined in Government Code Section 56076 as the probable physical boundary and service area of a local agency, as determined by the Commission. Every five years thereafter, the Commission must, as necessary, review and update each sphere of influence (Government Code Section 56425(g)).

In compliance with Government Code Section 56425(g), the Commission accepted municipal service review (MSR) reports for the District, including the following:

- *Water and Wastewater Municipal Service Review Report* (September 17, 2003)
- *Municipal Service Review – Solid Waste Services – Special Districts* (January 19, 2005)

LAFCo’s past sphere of influence reviews resulted in no modifications of (i.e., updates to) the sphere in 2005, 2010, and 2015.

COMMISSIONERS AND STAFF

COUNTY	CITY	DISTRICT	PUBLIC
Jeff Gorell	Jenny Crosswhite, Vice-Chair	Raul Avila	Pat Richards, Chair
Janice S. Parvin <i>Alternate</i>	John C. Zaragoza <i>Alternate</i>	Mary Anne Rooney <i>Alternate</i>	<i>Alternate</i>
Matt LaVere	Susan Santangelo	Mohammed A. Hasan	David J. Ross
Executive Officer Kai Luoma	Deputy Executive Officer Andrea Ozdy	Office Manager/Clerk Richelle Beltran	Legal Counsel Jeffrey Barnes

Discussion:

District Information

The VRSD was formed in 1970 and is a dependent district.¹ The VRSD is authorized to acquire, construct, and operate sewage collection, treatment and disposal facilities; to acquire, construct, and operate refuse transfer and disposal facilities; perform wastewater and solid waste management; and provide retail and agricultural water services. The District's primary activities relate to the operation of the Toland Road Landfill; however, it is also responsible for post-closure monitoring and maintenance of closed landfills within Ventura County, and support for water and wastewater system operation and maintenance of other organizations. A 9-member board of directors governs the District. The District's sphere of influence covers approximately 1,083,759 acres (about 1,693 square miles), and its jurisdictional boundary is coterminous with its sphere (Attachment 1).

Sphere of Influence Evaluation

A sphere of influence update is defined in Section 4.1.2(b) of the Ventura LAFCo Commissioner's Handbook as "a comprehensive review and modification of a sphere of influence that is not associated with a concurrent proposal for a change of organization or an out of agency service agreement."

Based on the work plan established by the Commission, review/update of the District's sphere of influence was to be initiated during 2019. During 2019 and since that time, LAFCo staff consulted with District staff to discuss the sphere of influence, and to determine: (1) if the District has experienced any changes to its service needs or areas since LAFCo's most recent evaluation of its sphere of influence, and (2) if the District staff anticipates any service changes that would warrant adjustment of the sphere boundaries.

The Commission has made no changes to the VRSD's sphere of influence as part of each of its previous sphere of influence reviews, which have occurred on May 18, 2005, March 17, 2010, and May 18, 2015. The existing sphere of influence boundary continues to reflect the District's current and probable service area, and is justified based on the MSR report provided for the Commission's consideration as part of Agenda Item 10 of the May 17, 2023, meeting. The MSR demonstrates that the District has the ability to provide services at acceptable levels. Therefore, no changes to the sphere of influence for the District are recommended.

¹ According to Government Code Section 56032.5, a dependent district is defined (in pertinent part) as follows: "Dependent special district" or "dependent district" includes any special district that has a legislative body that consists, in whole or part, of ex officio members who are officers of a county or another local agency, or who are appointees of those officers, and who are not appointed to fixed terms.

Written Determinations

Government Code Section 56425(e) requires that, in determining the sphere of influence of an agency, the Commission consider and prepare a written statement of its determinations with respect to each of the following:

- (1) *The present and planned land uses in the area, including agricultural and open-space lands.* (Section 56425(e)(1))

The District's sphere of influence includes of a range of uses, including: (1) urban development within the cities of Camarillo, Fillmore, Ojai, Oxnard, Port Hueneme, San Buenaventura, Santa Paula, and Thousand Oaks, and (2) urban, rural, industrial, agricultural, and open space uses within the unincorporated areas of much of Ventura County. The population within the District's sphere of influence and jurisdictional area was estimated to be approximately 686,500 in 2016, and is projected to reach 768,400 by 2045. Based on the land use designations and characteristics of the land contained within the District's sphere, existing land uses are expected to remain unchanged.

- (2) *The present and probable need for public facilities and services in the area.* (Section 56425(e)(2))

The District's primary activities relate to the operation of the Toland Road Landfill; however, it is also responsible for post-closure monitoring and maintenance of closed landfills within Ventura County, and support for water and wastewater system operation and maintenance of other organizations. The District's sphere of influence includes of a range of uses, including: (1) urban development within the cities of Camarillo, Fillmore, Ojai, Oxnard, Port Hueneme, San Buenaventura, Santa Paula, and Thousand Oaks, and (2) urban, rural, industrial, agricultural, and open space uses within the unincorporated areas of much of Ventura County. The existing need for District services will remain, and additional demand for services is expected as a result of anticipated population growth within the District's sphere of influence and jurisdictional area.

- (3) *The present capacity of public facilities and adequacy of public services that the agency provides or is authorized to provide.* (Section 56425(e)(3))

The District's primary activities relate to the operation of the Toland Road Landfill; however, it is also responsible for post-closure monitoring and maintenance of closed landfills within Ventura County, and support for water and wastewater system operation and maintenance of other organizations. The District's sphere of influence includes of a range of uses, including: (1) urban development within the cities of Camarillo, Fillmore, Ojai, Oxnard, Port Hueneme, San Buenaventura, Santa Paula, and Thousand Oaks, and (2) urban, rural, industrial, agricultural, and open space uses within the unincorporated areas of much of Ventura County. While population growth within the District's sphere of influence and

jurisdictional area is anticipated, based on the evaluation contained in the MSR considered by the Commission on May 17, 2023, the District has the ability to continue to provide municipal services within its service area and sphere of influence, and additional demands would not adversely impact the present capacity of public facilities and adequacy of public services that the District provides or is authorized to provide.

- (4) *The existence of any social or economic communities of interest in the area if the commission determines that they are relevant to the agency. (Section 56425(e)(4))*

The District's sphere of influence includes the communities of Nyeland Acres, Piru, and Saticoy, which are known to be disadvantaged unincorporated communities. The Nyeland Acres community receives fire protection services from both the Ventura County Fire Protection District and the City of Oxnard under a mutual aid agreement, police protection services from the Ventura County Sheriff's Office, wastewater collection services from Ventura County Service Area No. 30 (CSA 30), wastewater collection and treatment from the City of Oxnard (through an agreement between CSA 30 and the City whereby CSA 30 discharges to the City's collection system), and water services from the Garden Acres Mutual Water Company and Nyeland Acres Mutual Water Company. The Piru community receives fire protection services from the Ventura County Fire Protection District, police protection services from the Ventura County Sheriff's Office, wastewater collection and treatment services from Ventura County Waterworks District No. 16, and water services from the Warring Water Service, Inc., a mutual water company. The Saticoy community receives fire protection services primarily from the City of San Buenaventura (through a mutual aid agreement between the City and Ventura County Fire Protection District), police protection services from the Ventura County Sheriff's Office, wastewater collection and treatment services from the Saticoy Sanitary District, and water services from the City of San Buenaventura). The sphere of influence review does not involve any changes to the District's sphere, and would not result in a detrimental impact to any social or economic communities of interest.

- (5) *For an update of a sphere of influence of a city or special district that provides public facilities or services related to sewers, municipal and industrial water, or structural fire protection. . . the present and probable need for those public facilities and services of any disadvantaged unincorporated communities within the existing sphere of influence. (Section 56425(e)(5))*

The review of the District's sphere of influence is not considered an update (i.e., a modification) to the sphere; therefore, this determination does not apply.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

A project is defined in CEQA Section 21065, in part, as "an activity which may cause either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change

in the environment.” Staff recommends that the Commission find that the review of the District’s sphere of influence is exempt from CEQA 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.” No change in regulation, land use, or development will occur as a result of the recommended sphere of influence review.

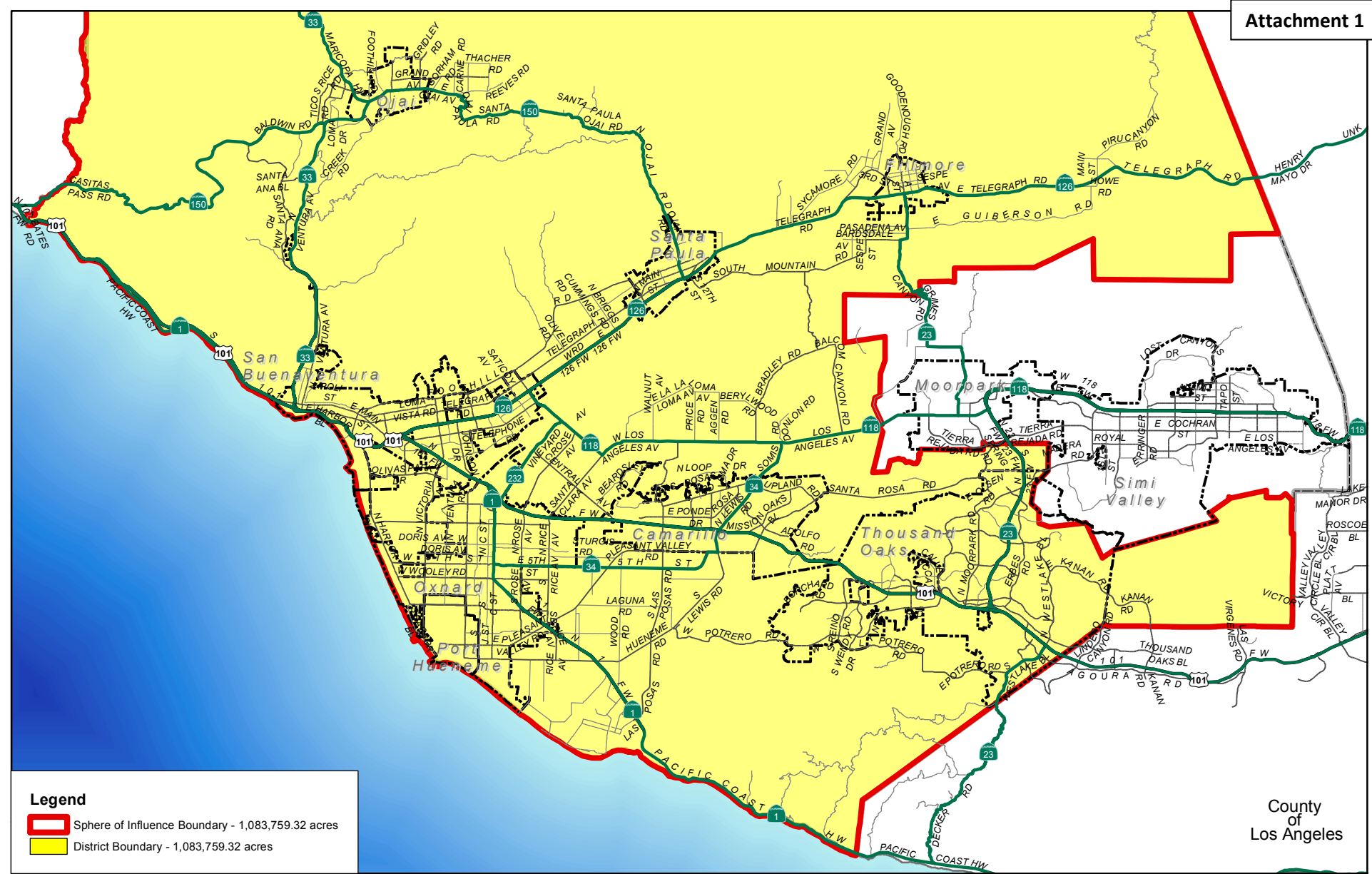
Notice of Public Hearing

This matter has been noticed as a public hearing pursuant to Government Code Section 56427. Additionally, all affected agencies have been notified of the public hearing.

Attachments:

1. Existing Sphere of Influence Map for Ventura Regional Sanitation District
2. LAFCo 23-12S Resolution

LAFCo makes every effort to offer legible map files with the online and printed versions of our reports; however, occasionally the need to reduce oversize original maps and/or other technological/software factors can compromise readability. Original maps are available for viewing at the LAFCo office by request.



Legend

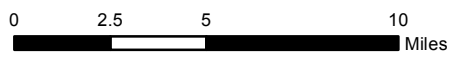
- Sphere of Influence Boundary - 1,083,759.32 acres
- District Boundary - 1,083,759.32 acres

County of Los Angeles

Ventura Regional Sanitation District

Current as of March 18, 2015

Prepared by County of Ventura - IT Services Department - GIS Services
 State Plane Coordinate System California Zone V - NAD 27
 This map was compiled from records and computations



LAFCO 23-125

RESOLUTION OF THE VENTURA LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION MAKING DETERMINATIONS AND REVIEWING THE SPHERE OF INFLUENCE FOR THE VENTURA REGIONAL SANITATION DISTRICT

WHEREAS, Government Code § 56425 et seq. requires the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo or Commission) to develop and determine the sphere of influence of each local governmental agency within the County; and

WHEREAS, Government Code § 56425(g) requires that on or before January 1, 2008, and every five years thereafter, the Commission shall, as necessary, review and update the sphere of influence of each city and special district; and

WHEREAS, the Commission reviewed the sphere of influence for the Ventura Regional Sanitation District (District) in 2005, 2010, and 2015;

WHEREAS, the Commission accepted the Municipal Service Review (MSR) report for the District dated May 17, 2023.

WHEREAS, the Commission desires to review the sphere of influence for the District; and

WHEREAS, no change in regulation, land use, or development will occur as a result of reviewing the sphere of influence for the District; and

WHEREAS, at the times and in the manner required by law, the LAFCo Executive Officer gave notice of the consideration of this item by the Commission; and

WHEREAS, the sphere of influence review item was duly considered at a public hearing on May 17, 2023, as specified in the notice of hearing; and

WHEREAS, the Commission heard, discussed, and considered all oral and written testimony for and against the sphere of influence review including, but not limited to, the LAFCo Staff Report dated May 17, 2023, and recommendations; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, DETERMINED, AND ORDERED by the Commission as follows:

- (1) The LAFCo Staff Report dated May 17, 2023, and recommended review of the sphere of influence for the District are adopted; and
- (2) The subject sphere of influence review is assigned the following distinctive short form designation:
LAFCO 23-12S VENTURA REGIONAL SANITATION DISTRICT SPHERE OF INFLUENCE REVIEW; and
- (3) An update (modification) to the sphere of influence for the District is not necessary; and
- (4) The sphere of influence review for the District is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to § 15061(b)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines, and LAFCo staff is directed to file a Notice of Exemption as the lead agency pursuant to § 15062 of the CEQA Guidelines; and
- (5) The Commission has considered the criteria set forth in Government Code § 56425(e) and determines as follows:

a. *The present and planned land uses in the area, including agricultural and open-space lands. (§ 56425(e)(1))*

The District's sphere of influence includes of a range of uses, including: (1) urban development within the cities of Camarillo, Fillmore, Ojai, Oxnard, Port Hueneme, San Buenaventura, Santa Paula, and Thousand Oaks, and (2) urban, rural, industrial, agricultural, and open space uses within the unincorporated areas of much of Ventura County. The population within the District's sphere of influence and jurisdictional area was estimated to be approximately 686,500 in 2016, and is projected to reach 768,400 by 2045. Based on the land use designations and characteristics of the land contained within the District's sphere, existing land uses are expected to remain unchanged.

b. *The present and probable need for public facilities and services in the area. (§ 56425(e)(2))*

The District's primary activities relate to the operation of the Toland Road Landfill; however, it is also responsible for post-closure monitoring and maintenance of

closed landfills within Ventura County, and support for water and wastewater system operation and maintenance of other organizations. The District's sphere of influence includes of a range of uses, including: (1) urban development within the cities of Camarillo, Fillmore, Ojai, Oxnard, Port Hueneme, San Buenaventura, Santa Paula, and Thousand Oaks, and (2) urban, rural, industrial, agricultural, and open space uses within the unincorporated areas of much of Ventura County. The existing need for District services will remain, and additional demand for services is expected as a result of anticipated population growth within the District's sphere of influence and jurisdictional area.

c. *The present capacity of public facilities and adequacy of public services that the agency provides or is authorized to provide. (§ 56425(e)(3))*

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d. *The existence of any social or economic communities of interest in the area if the commission determines that they are relevant to the agency. (§ 56425(e)(4))*

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- e. ***For an update of a sphere of influence of a city or special district that provides public facilities or services related to sewers, municipal and industrial water, or structural fire protection. . . the present and probable need for those public facilities and services of any disadvantaged unincorporated communities within the existing sphere of influence. (§ 56425(e)(5))***

The review of the District's sphere of influence is not considered an update (i.e., a modification) to the sphere; therefore, this determination does not apply.

- (6) The sphere of influence for the District is hereby reviewed and is generally depicted in Exhibit A, "Ventura Regional Sanitation District," attached hereto; and

- (7) LAFCo staff is directed to have the official Geographic Information System (GIS) sphere of influence data maintained for the Ventura LAFCo by the Ventura County Information Technology Services Department as the official sphere of influence record for the District updated consistent with this action.

This resolution was adopted on May 17, 2023.

	AYE	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Commissioner Avila	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commissioner Crosswhite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commissioner Gorell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commissioner Parvin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commissioner Richards	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commissioner Rooney	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commissioner Zaragoza	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Alt. Commissioner Hasan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Alt. Commissioner LaVere	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Alt. Commissioner Ross	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Alt. Commissioner Santangelo	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

5-17-23

Date

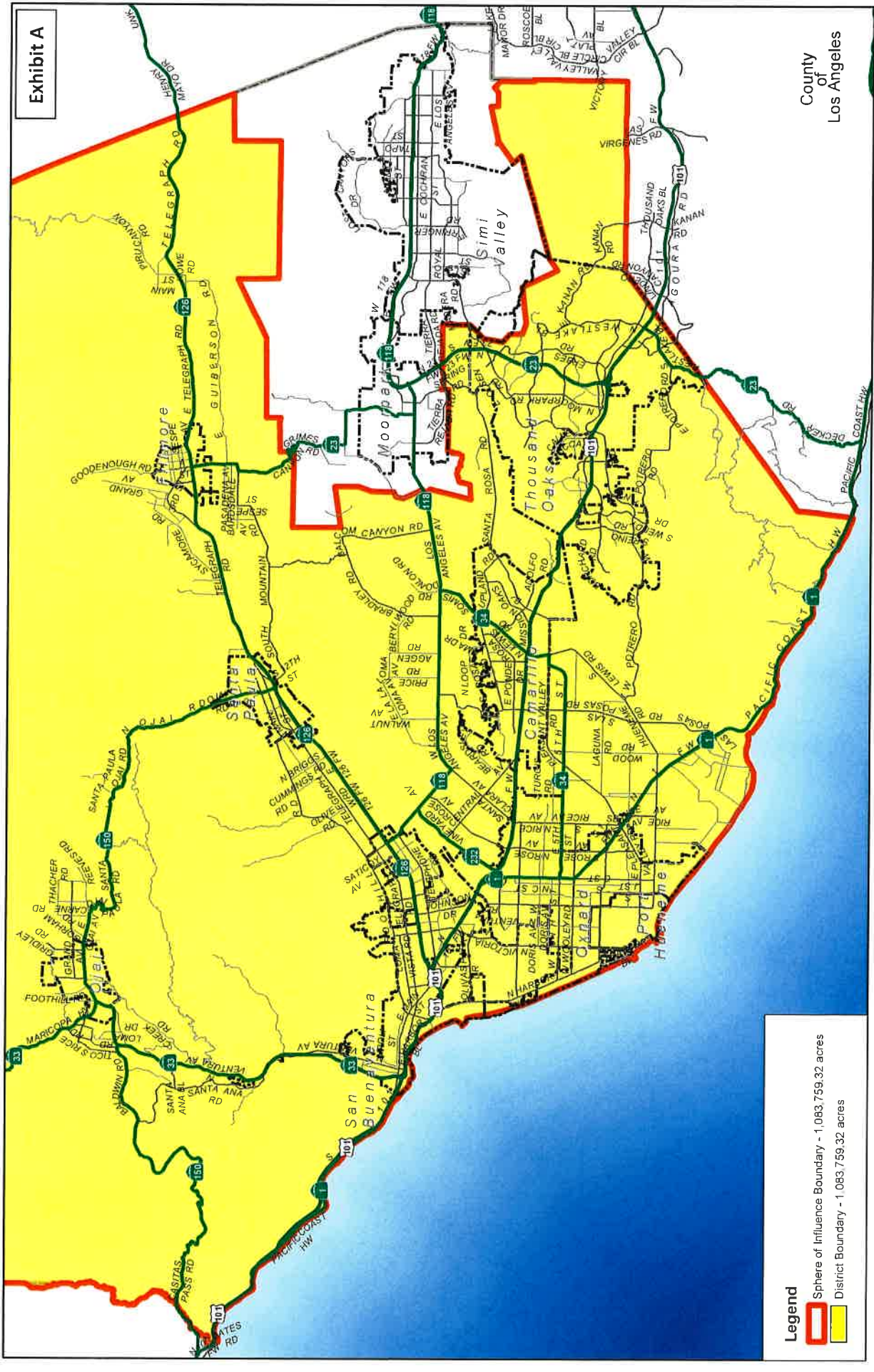


Chair, Ventura Local Agency Formation Commission

Attachment: Exhibit A

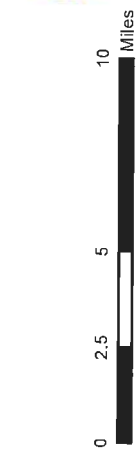
c: Ventura Regional Sanitation District
Ventura County Information Technology Services Department

Exhibit A



Legend

- Sphere of Influence Boundary - 1,083,759.32 acres
- District Boundary - 1,083,759.32 acres



Ventura Regional Sanitation District

Current as of March 18, 2015

Prepared by County of Ventura - IT Services Department - GIS Services
 State Plane Coordinate System California Zone V - NAD 27

This map was compiled from records and computations

WARNING: The information contained herein was created by the Ventura County Geographic Information System (GIS), which is designed and operated solely for the convenience of the County and related contract entities. The County does not warrant the accuracy of this information, and no decision involving a risk of economic loss or physical injury should be made in reliance thereon.

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County of Los Angeles