



VENTURA LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION  
**STAFF REPORT**

Meeting Date: January 21, 2026

**TO:** LAFCo Commissioners

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

**SUBJECT:** Sphere of Influence Review: LAFCo 26-06S Ventura County Waterworks District No. 17

**Recommendation:**

Adopt Resolution LAFCo 26-06S (Attachment 2) making determinations and reviewing the sphere of influence for Ventura County Waterworks District No. 17 (VCWD 17 or District) pursuant to Government Code Section 56425(g), including that a sphere of influence update is not necessary.

**District Information:**

VCWD 17 is a dependent special district formed in 1977 that, through the Water and Sanitation Department of the Ventura County Public Works Agency, is authorized to provide potable water service throughout its service area within the unincorporated community of Bell Canyon, and surrounding area to the north. All other services are considered to be latent.<sup>1</sup> The Ventura County Board of Supervisors is the governing body of the District. VCWD 17's sphere of influence covers approximately 4,845 acres (about 7.57 square miles), and its jurisdictional area totals about 4,845 acres (approximately 7.57 square miles) (Attachment 1).

**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

<sup>1</sup> Pursuant to Government Code Section 56050.5, "'Latent service or power' means those services, facilities, functions, or powers authorized by the principal act under which the district is formed, but that are not being exercised, as determined by the commission pursuant to subdivision (i) of Section 56425."

COMMISSIONERS AND STAFF

COUNTY	CITY	DISTRICT	PUBLIC
Jeff Gorell	Jenny Crosswhite	Raul Avila, Chair	Gene Talmadge
Janice S. Parvin, Vice-Chair	Bert E. Perello	Chris Stephens	
<i>Alternate</i>	<i>Alternate</i>	<i>Alternate</i>	<i>Alternate</i>
Matt LaVere	Susan Santangelo	Mohammed A. Hasan	Joe Piechowski
<b>Executive Officer</b>	<b>Deputy Executive Officer</b>	<b>Office Manager/Clerk</b>	<b>Legal Counsel</b>
Kai Luoma	Andrea Ozdy	Richelle Beltran	Jeffrey Barnes

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 a municipal service review (MSR) report for VCWD 17 first on September 17, 2003, and again on May 18, 2022. Both MSRs are available on the [LAFCo website](#).

LAFCo's past sphere of influence reviews resulted in a review (i.e., no changes) of the sphere in 2004, 2009, 2014, and 2022.

## **Discussion:**

### *Sphere of Influence Evaluation*

Based on the work plan established by the Commission, an evaluation of the District's sphere of influence is to be initiated in 2026. LAFCo staff consulted with District staff to discuss the District's 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 District staff anticipates any service changes that would warrant adjustment of the sphere boundaries.

As explained in the analysis below, it appears that the existing sphere of influence boundary continues to reflect the District's current and probable service area, consistent with the MSR report accepted by the Commission in 2022 (which 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. The sphere of influence review involving no changes is not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because it "will not result in a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment" (CEQA Guidelines Section 15060(c)(2)).

### *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 consists primarily of the unincorporated low-density residential community of Bell Canyon, and includes surrounding open space properties to the north, all within the unincorporated County area. Based on the land use designations

and characteristics of land within the District's sphere of influence, land uses within the District's sphere 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 sphere of influence consists primarily of the unincorporated low-density residential community of Bell Canyon, and includes surrounding open space properties to the north, all within the unincorporated County area. The existing need for District services will remain, and is not anticipated to change significantly.

- (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 sphere of influence consists primarily of the unincorporated low-density residential community of Bell Canyon, and includes surrounding open space properties to the north, all within the unincorporated County area. There are no expected new demands on the District that would adversely impact the present capacity of public facilities and adequacy of public services that the District provides or is authorized to provide. Based on the evaluation contained in the MSR accepted by LAFCo on May 18, 2022, the District has the ability to continue to provide municipal services within its service area and sphere of influence.

- (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 does not include territory that is known to be a community of interest. No disadvantaged unincorporated communities (defined in Government Code Section 56033.5 as communities having an annual median household income that is less than 80 percent of the statewide annual median household income), are located within or contiguous to the District's sphere of influence.

- (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. Additionally, no disadvantaged unincorporated communities are located within the District's sphere of influence.

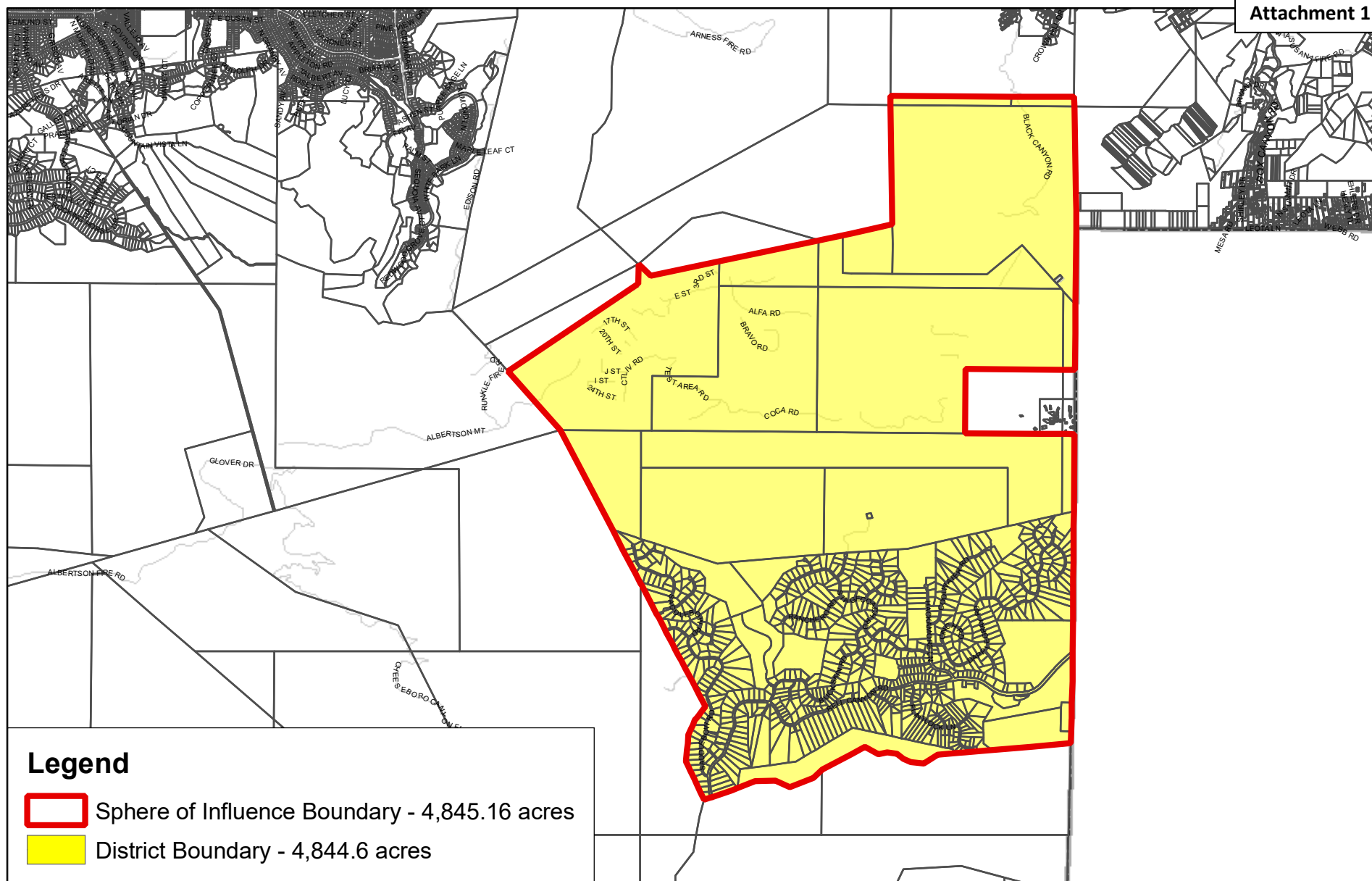
### *Notice of Public Hearing*

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:

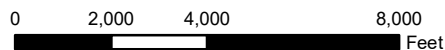
1. Existing Sphere of Influence Map for VCWD 17
2. LAFCo 26-06S Resolution

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.



# Ventura County Waterworks District No. 17

Current as of May 18, 2022



Prepared by County of Ventura - Information Systems Department - GIS Division

State Plane Coordinate System California Zone V - NAD 27

This map was compiled from records and computations



**LAFCO 26-06S****RESOLUTION OF THE VENTURA LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION  
COMMISSION MAKING DETERMINATIONS AND REVIEWING  
AND DETERMINING THE SPHERE OF INFLUENCE FOR VENTURA  
COUNTY WATERWORKS DISTRICT NO. 17**

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 (i.e., made no changes to) the sphere of influence for Ventura County Waterworks District No. 17 (District or VCWD 17) in 2004, 2009, and 2014, and 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Commission accepted a Municipal Service Review (MSR) report for the District on September 17, 2003, and on May 18, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the District is authorized to provide potable water service throughout its service area within the unincorporated community of Bell Canyon, and surrounding area to the north; and

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 January 21, 2026, 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 January 21, 2026, and recommendations.

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

- (1) The LAFCo Staff Report dated January 21, 2026, 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 26-06S VENTURA COUNTY WATERWORKS DISTRICT NO. 17 SPHERE OF INFLUENCE REVIEW;** and

- (3) An update (modification) to the sphere of influence for the District is not necessary; and
- (4) 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 consists primarily of the unincorporated low-density residential community of Bell Canyon, and includes surrounding open space properties to the north, all within the unincorporated County area. Based on the land use designations and characteristics of land within the District's sphere of influence, land uses within the District's sphere 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 sphere of influence consists primarily of the unincorporated low-density residential community of Bell Canyon, and includes surrounding open space properties to the north, all within the unincorporated County area. The existing need for District services will remain, and is not anticipated to change significantly.

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

The District's sphere of influence consists primarily of the unincorporated low-density residential community of Bell Canyon, and includes surrounding open space properties to the north, all within the unincorporated County area. There are no expected new demands on the District that would adversely impact the present capacity of public facilities and adequacy of public services that the District provides or is authorized to provide. Based on the evaluation contained in the MSR accepted by LAFCo on May 18, 2022, the District has the ability to continue to provide municipal services within its service area and sphere of influence.

**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))***

The District's sphere of influence does not include territory that is known to be a community of interest. No disadvantaged unincorporated communities (defined in Government Code Section 56033.5 as communities having an annual median household income that is less than 80 percent of the statewide annual median household income), are located within or contiguous to the District's sphere of influence.

**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. Additionally, no disadvantaged unincorporated communities are located within the District's sphere of influence.

- (5) The sphere of influence for the District is hereby reviewed and is generally depicted in Exhibit A, "Ventura County Waterworks District No. 17," attached hereto; and



- (6) The sphere of influence for the District is hereby adopted pursuant to Government Code Section 56425(f); 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 January 21, 2026.

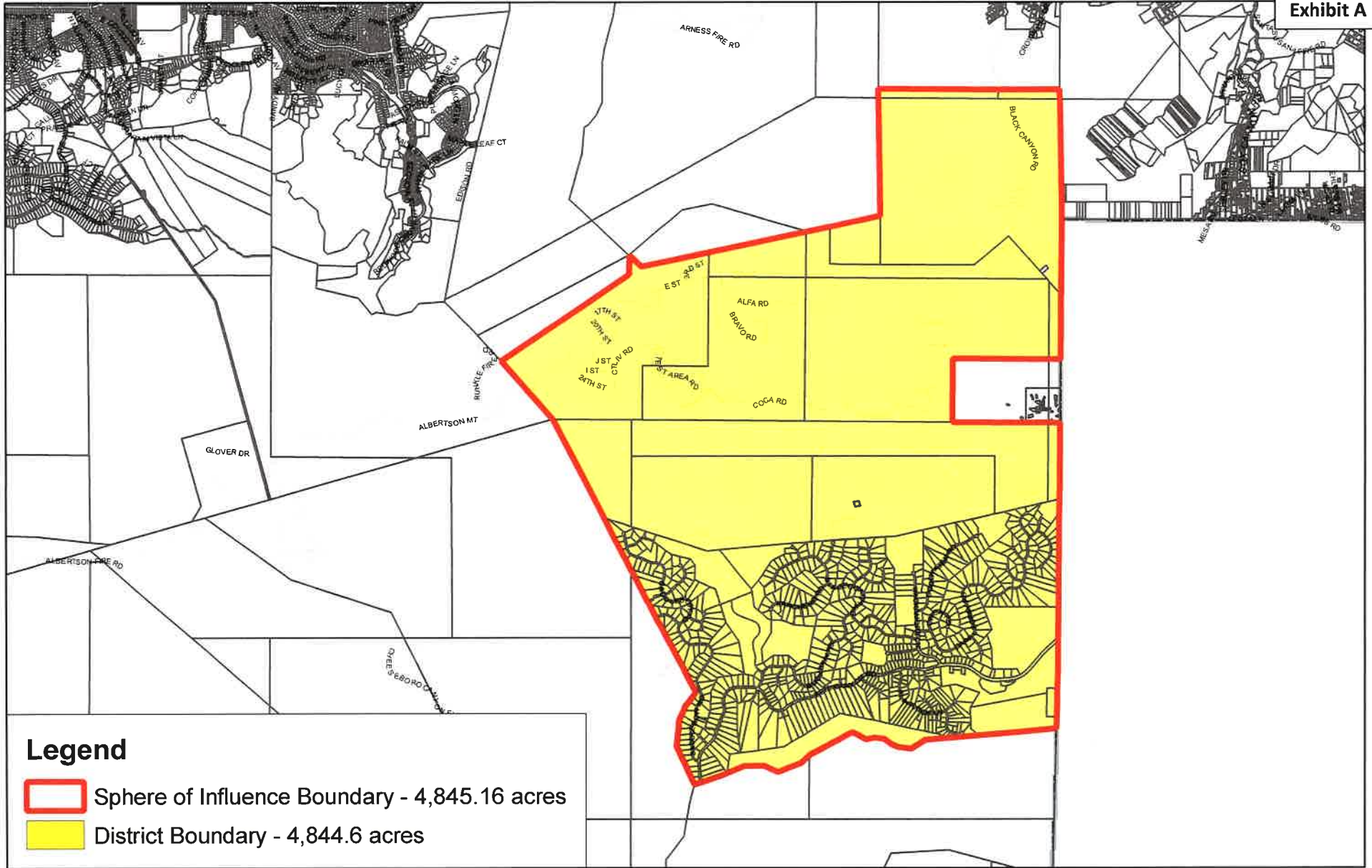
	AYE	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Commissioner Avila	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Commissioner Crosswhite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commissioner Gorell	<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"/>
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Commissioner Stephens	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Alt. Commissioner Hasan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Alt. Commissioner Santangelo	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

1/21/2026  
Date

  
Chair, Ventura Local Agency Formation Commission

Attachment: Exhibit A

c: Ventura County Waterworks District No. 17  
Ventura County Information Technology Services Department



### Legend

- Sphere of Influence Boundary - 4,845.16 acres
- District Boundary - 4,844.6 acres



## Ventura County Waterworks District No. 17

Current as of May 18, 2022

0 2,000 4,000 8,000  
Feet

Prepared by County of Ventura - Information Systems Department - GIS Division

State Plane Coordinate System California Zone V - NAD 27

This map was compiled from records and computations

