# TULARE COUNTY LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

210 N. Church Street, Suite B, Visalia 93291 Phone: (559) 623-0450 FAX: (559) 733-6720

### LAFCO MEETING AGENDA

December 4, 2013 @ 2:00 P.M. BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CHAMBERS COUNTY ADMINISTATIVE BUILDING 2800 West Burrel Avenue Visalia CA 93291 COMMISSIONERS: Cameron Hamilton, Chair Steve Worthley, V-Chair Allen Ishida Juliet Allen Rudy Mendoza

ALTERNATES: Mike Ennis Janet Hinesly Dennis Mederos

EXECUTIVE OFFICER: Ben Giuliani

I. <u>Call to Order</u>

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#### II. Approval of Minutes from October 9, 2013 (Pages 1-4)

#### III. Public Comment Period

At this time, members of the public may comment on any item not appearing on the agenda and that is within the scope of matters considered by the Commission. Under state law, matters presented under this item cannot be discussed or acted upon by the LAFCO Commission at this time. So that all interested parties have an opportunity to speak, any person addressing the Commission may be limited at the discretion of the chair. At all times, please use the microphone and state your name and address for the record.

#### IV. <u>Consent Calendar</u>

1. <u>Porterville Annexation No.477, LAFCO Case 1501-P-313</u> (Pages 5-16) [No Public Hearing].....Recommended Action: Adoption

The City of Porterville is proposing the annexation of 10.5 acres of land located west of North Main Street and north of West North Grand Avenue, in the northeast growth area in the City of Porterville. A negative declaration was prepared and approved in compliance with CEQA by the City of Porterville for use in this proposal.

#### V. <u>New Action Items</u>

1. <u>Election of Officers for 2014</u> (Pages 17-18) [No Public Hearing].....Recommended Action: Elect Chairman and Vice-Chairman

The Commission will select a new Commission Chair and Vice-Chair. The LAFCO Commission Chair and Vice-Chair are chosen on a rotating basis (County-City-Public) in accordance with LAFCO Policy A-4. County representative Steve Worthley is scheduled to be selected as Chair. Public representative Julie Allen is scheduled to be selected as Vice-Chair. The new officers' term will commence on January 1, 2014 and end on December 31, 2014.

2. <u>Cancellation of the January,2014 Commission Meeting</u> (Pages 19-20) [No Public Hearing].....Recommended Action: Approval

There are no actions items scheduled for the January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014 meeting.

# VI. <u>Executive Officer's Report</u>

1. <u>Extraterritorial Service Agreement (ESA) 2013-01 (City of Tulare/Grant) and ESA 2013-02 (City of Tulare/Whitten)</u> (Pages 21-22)

Pursuant to Policy C-6, the Executive Officer approved two ESAs between the City of Tulare and private property owners for the provision of domestic water. Both situations involved private wells running dry with the City being in position to extend its water lines to the affected properties.

#### 2. Draft Amended LAFCO Policy A-5 (Commission Meetings and Hearings) (Pages 23-28)

The draft amended Policy A-5 (attached) was circulated to city and county staff for review on November 14th. The proposed policy would amend an affirmative vote by the Commission from a majority present to a majority of the full membership and would adopt Rosenberg's Rules of Order for the conduct of meetings.

#### 3. Annual LAFCO Map Presentation (Pages 29-50)

Annually, LAFCO Staff prepares a series of maps and statistical tables that track city and special district annexation activity for both the preceding year as well as annexation activity over the course of LAFCO's existence. The map and table series also illustrates changes – in terms of acreage - in County prime agricultural land, land uses, government owned land, and land under Williamson Act Contract.

#### 4. RVLP Effectiveness(Pages 51-56)

The enclosed report reviews the Rural Valley Lands Plan and it effectiveness on the County of Tulare.

#### 5. <u>Legislative Update</u> (No Page)

For the 2014 session, the deadline for bills to be introduced is February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2014.

#### 6. <u>Upcoming Projects</u> (No Page)

The Executive Officer will provide a summary and tentative schedule of upcoming LAFCO cases and projects.

#### VII. Correspondence

There are no items.

#### VIII. Other Business

1. Commissioner Report (No Page)

NOTE: Persons wishing to speak on any of the agenda items who have made a political contribution of more than \$250 to any commissioner in the last twelve months must indicate this when speaking.

#### 2. CALAFCO Update (Pages 57-58)

Please see enclosed CALAFCO Quarterly Update and 2014 CALAFCO Schedule.

3. Request from LAFCO for items to be set for future agendas

#### IX. <u>Closed Sessions</u>

None

#### X. Setting Time and Place of Next Meeting

1. January 8, 2014 @ 2:00 P.M. or February 5, 2014 @ 2:00 P.M. (if the January meeting is cancelled) in the Board of Supervisors Chambers in the County Administration Building.

#### XI. Adjournment

#### Agenda Summary

Item No.

- II. Please see enclosed October 9, 2013 meeting minutes.
- IV.1 Please see enclosed staff report
- V.1 Please see enclosed memo
- V.2 No enclosure for this item
- VI.1 Please see enclosed memo
- VI.2 Please see enclosed memo
- VI.3 Please see enclosed staff report
- VI.4 No enclosure for this item
- VI.5 No enclosure for this item
- VIII.1 No enclosure for this item
- VIII.2 Please see enclosed CALAFCO information

#### TULARE COUNTY LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION Minutes of the Meeting October 9, 2013

Members Present:	Cameron Hamilton, Steve Worthley, Allen Ishida, Julie Allen
Members Absent:	Rudy Mendoza
Alternates Present:	Dennis Mederos
Alternates Absent:	Mike Ennis, Janet Hinesly
Staff Present:	Ben Giuliani, Cynthia Echavarria, Carrie Perez
Counsel Present:	Lisa Tennenbaum

#### I. Call to Order

Chair Hamilton called the Tulare County Local Agency Formation Commission meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. on October 9, 2013.

#### II. Approval of the August 7, 2013 Minutes:

Upon motion by Commissioner Worthley and seconded by Commissioner Allen, the Commission unanimously approved the August 7, 2013 minutes.

#### III. Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

#### IV. Consent Calendar Items

There were no consent calendar items.

#### V. New Action Items

#### 1. Lower Tulare River Irrigation District Detachment 2013-7-2, LAFCO Case 1499

Public hearing opened at 2:12 PM. Public hearing closed at 2:13 PM.

The proposal was for the detachment of the boundaries of the Lower Tulare River Irrigation District. The detachment included 385 individual parcels with a total acreage of 431. Staff recommended that the proposal be approved. The proposed detachment will not have a significant impact on the environment.

Commissioner Mederos asked if the properties in question were currently paying an assessment fee to the irrigation district.

Mr. Giuliani responded yes currently the properties are paying an assessment fee but this detachment would eliminate that fee.

Upon motion by Commissioner Worthley and seconded by Commissioner Allen, the Commission unanimously approved the Lower Tulare River Irrigation District Detachment 2013-7-2, LAFCO Case 1499.

#### 2. Pixley Irrigation District Reorganization 2013-7-1, LAFCO Case 1500.

Public Hearing opened at 2:15 PM. Public Hearing closed at 2:16 PM.

The proposed project modifies the existing PID boundary to remove those developed and non-agricultural parcels in the urbanized communities within the PID service area and annex parcels identified that are being irrigated and used for agriculture purposes.

Upon motion by Commissioner Ishida and seconded by Commissioner Allen, the Commission unanimously approved the Pixley Irrigation District Reorganization 2013-7-1, LAFCO Case 1500.

#### 3. 2014 Proposal Deadline and Meeting Schedule

The following meeting dates and application deadlines were proposed for 2014. Complicated proposals or those, which have not been "pre-noticed" by the initiating agency, may require additional time to process. Staff will make every effort to place the proposal on the agenda, however, unforeseen circumstances may require placement of the proposal on another agenda.

Application Deadline	Meeting Date
12-12-13	02-05-14
01-15-14	03-05-14
02-12-14	04-02-14
03-19-14	05-07-14
04-16-14	06-04-14
05-21-14	07-09-14
06-18-14	08-06-14
07-16-14	09-03-14
08-13-14	10-01-14
09-17-14	11-05-14
10-15-14	12-03-14
11-19-14	01-07-15

Upon motion by Commissioner Worthley and seconded by Commissioner Allen, the Commission unanimously approved the 2014 Proposal Application Deadline and Meeting Schedule.

# 4. Cancellation of the November 6<sup>th</sup> Commission Meeting.

There are no action items scheduled to be heard for the November 6, 2013 LAFCO Commission Meeting. Therefore, the meeting was proposed to be canceled.

Upon motion by Commissioner Allen and seconded by Commissioner Worthley, the Commission unanimously approved the Cancellation of the November 6<sup>th</sup> Commission Meeting.

#### VI. Executive Officer's Report

#### 1. CALAFCO Annual Conference

Mr. Giuliani shared with the Commission some of the topics that were discussed at the conference. Orange County LAFCO distributed a directory of shared services that their county uses. Shared services is an effective strategy to reduce public sector costs. This would give LAFCO, cities, special districts and the County identifiable resource sharing opportunities while maintaining the same level of services.

Commissioner Worthley suggested taking advantage of MSRs to identify opportunities for shared services and equipment.

Commissioner Allen asked that staff create a useful directory of possible services that could be shared in our county.

Mr. Giuliani discussed the Rosenberg's Rules of Order. The Rosenberg's Rules of Order are guidelines of how to conduct meetings.

Alternate Commissioner Mederos asked to adopt the guidelines for our use.

Commissioner Worthley stated that it would be appropriate to adopt these guidelines.

#### 2. Legislative Update

Mr. Giuliani presented a legislative update on the current bills that have passed and been signed or that have failed.

#### 3. Upcoming Projects

Mr. Giuliani discussed upcoming projects that will be on future Commission agendas.

#### VII. Correspondence

None

#### VIII. Other Business

1. <u>Commissioner Report</u> (CALAFCO Quarterly Report)

The CALAFCO Quarterly Report was included with the agenda. The Annual Conference held in Squaw Valley was highlighted.

#### 2. The Sphere, August 2013 Issue

The Sphere, a quarterly publication of CALAFCO, was reviewed and discussed.

#### 3. Request from LAFCO for items to be set for future agendas

Commissioner Allen proposed LAFCO adopt Rosenberg's Rules of Order and send it out to all special districts.

Commissioner Allen also requested that information be provided regarding the effectiveness of the County's Rural Valley Lands Plan (RVLP).

#### IX. Closed Sessions

None

#### X. Setting Time and Place of Next Meeting

The next LAFCO meeting for November 6, 2013 was canceled. The next LAFCO meeting will be December 4, 2013 at 2:00 PM in the Board of Supervisors Chambers in the County Administration Building.

#### XI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:11 P.M.

# TULARE COUNTY LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

December 4, 2013

# LAFCO Case Number# 1501-P-313 Porterville Annexation No. 477

- **PROPOSAL:** Annexation to the City of Porterville pursuant to the provision of Government Code Section 56375.3.
- **PROPONENT:** The City of Porterville by resolution of its City Council.
- **SIZE:** The proposed annexation consists of approximately 10.5 acres.

LOCATION: located west of North Main Street and north of West North Grand Avenue, in the northeast growth area in the City of Porterville. (Figure 1)

- ASSESSOR'S PARCEL NOS: The project site contains 2 individual parcels. 243-190-016 255-250-012
- **NOTICE:** Notice has been provided in accordance with GC §§56660 & 56661.

# **GENERAL ANALYSIS:**

#### 1. Land Use (Figure 2):

A. Site Information

	Existing	Proposed
Zoning Designation	County: AE-20 City: CG	City: IG
General Plan Designation	County: Exclusive Agriculture City: General and Service Commercial	City: Industrial
Uses	Vacant	Industrial (Solar Field)

B. Surrounding Land Uses and Zoning and General Plan Designations

	Zoning Designation	General Plan Designation	Existing Use
North	City: IG	City: General industrial	ImMODO solar field in construction
South	City: County pre- zoned CG	City: General and Service Commercial	Mini storage
East	City: County pre- zone RS-1	City: Very Low Density Residential	Agricultural-orchards
West	City: City CG zoning	City: General and Service Commercial	Consignment Sales

C. Topography, Natural Features and Drainage:

The site is topographically flat

# D. Conformity with General Plans and Spheres of Influence:

The entire site is within City and County-adopted 20 year Urban Development Boundaries and is within LAFCO's adopted Sphere of Influence for Porterville. The existing land use is consistent with the City's General Plan and is within the planned urban area of Porterville identified in the Regional Transportation Plan.

# 2. Impact on Prime Agricultural Land, Open Space and Agriculture:

The site will be zoned industrial. Thus, this annexation will not result in the eventual conversion of prime agricultural soils into urban uses.

#### Williamson Act and Agricultural Preserves:

The site is not under a Williamson Act or Farmland Security Zone contract. The land is classified as Farmland of Local Importance. The entire site is designated Farmland of local importance. Once the annexation is approved the City will re-zone the site from CG to General Industrial (GI). A solar energy generation facility is the proposed use on the site. Dispersed solar energy generation facilities are fundamentally compatible with adjacent land uses. Facility operation will not significantly increase nuisances that might disrupt the rural environment. The solar facility will not introduce incompatible urban uses or expose sensitive populations to agricultural operations, nor will they require urban infrastructure such as streets, sewer and waterlines that could lead to urban encroachment into agricultural areas.

# 3. Population:

The population of the subject area 0 persons The County Elections Division has indicated that there are less than 12 registered voters in the subject area. Therefore, pursuant to Section 56046, the annexation area is uninhabited.

### 4. Services and Controls - Need, Cost, Adequacy and Availability:

A private well for domestic water is currently on site. The project area is currently vacant.

Upon annexation, the City has represented that the full range of City services will be extended to the site including emergency and safety services. With respect to wastewater and domestic water capacity, the following analysis is provided:

#### Domestic Water

As mentioned above, the City will provide water service to the site. The proposed use on site is a solar energy generation facility. The City has indicated that the average monthly water usage within the site is estimated to be approximately 0.05 acre feet per year; water will be trucked onsite to wash panels as needed. Thus, annexation will not put an additional strain on the City's domestic water system and its water resources.

#### <u>Wastewater</u>

This annexation will not result in additional strain to the City's wastewater treatment plant. There will be no discharge to any surface or groundwater source. No chemicals or surfactants will be used in the maintenance or operation of solar panels and as such, there will be no discharge that could impact water quality standards.

#### 5. Boundaries and Lines of Assessment:

The boundaries of the proposed project site are definite and certain and conform to the lines of assessment and ownership.

A map sufficient for filing with the State Board of Equalization has been received from the proponent.

#### 6. Assessed Value, Tax Rates and Indebtedness:

Upon completion of this annexation the area will be assigned to a new tax rate area. The total assessed valuation of the proposal area is as follows:

Land Value	
APN 243-190-016	\$162,653
APN255-250-012	\$1,347

Estimated per capita assessed valuation 2 property owners

\$82,000 per capita

# 7. Environmental Impacts:

The City of Porterville is the lead agency for this proposal. The City prepared an initial study/environmental checklist and on the basis of that study, a Negative Declaration was approved for use with this proposal. A copy of the document is included in the application materials.

# 8. Landowner and Annexing Agency Consent:

Consent to this annexation has been received from the affected landowners. The City has consented to waive the protest hearing and consented to the Commission to make determinations without notice and hearing. Therefore a protest hearing may be waived.

# 9. Regional Housing Needs:

Pursuant to Government Code Section 56668 (I), LAFCO shall consider the extent to which the proposal will assist the receiving city and the County in achieving its fair share of regional housing needs as determined by the appropriate council of governments. The site does not contain residentially zoned land. Thus annexation will not affect the ability of the City or County reach their fair shares of regional housing needs.

#### 10. Discussion:

#### Urban Development Boundary:

The entire site is located within the Urban Development Boundary for Porterville. The entire site is consistent with Porterville's Sphere of Influence and consistent with Government Code Section 56375.5. Therefore, the annexation is consistent with LAFCO law.

County Island:

The annexation of this site would reduce the size of an existing County island.

#### **Recommended Actions:**

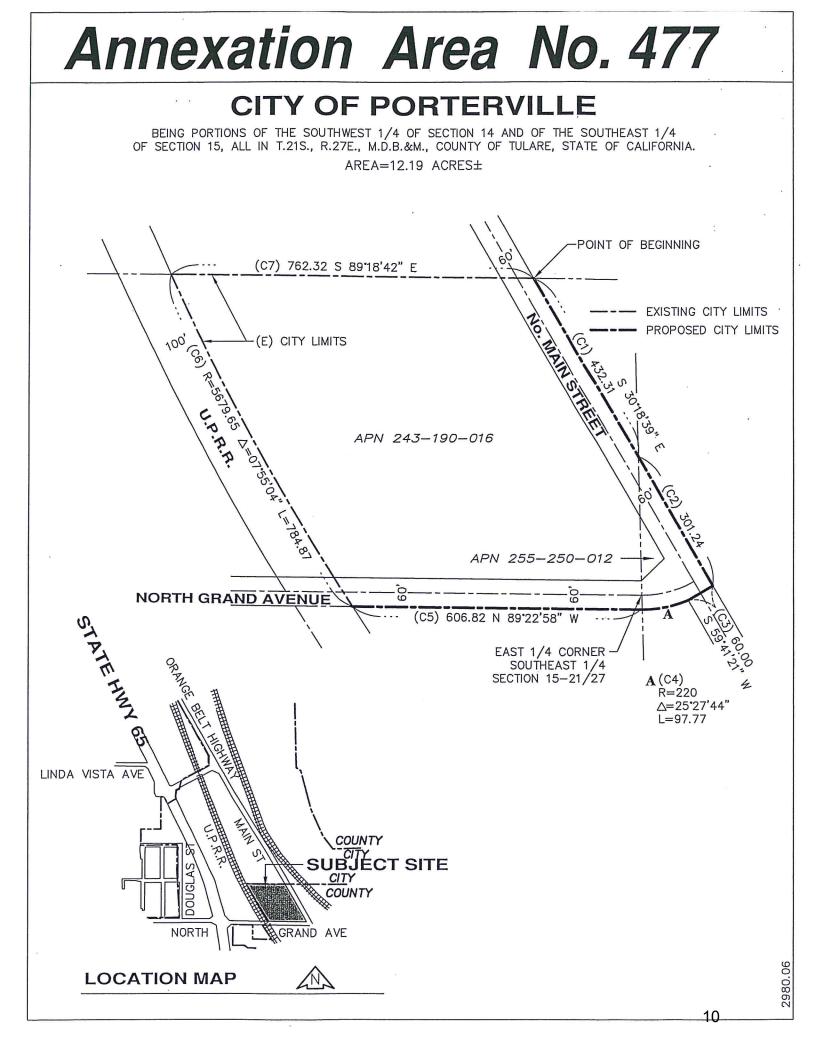
It is recommended that this proposal be approved and that the Commission take the following actions:

1. The potential environmental effects of the proposed detachment have been reviewed and considered in the Porterville Annexation No. 477 Initial Study Environmental Checklist and no significant adverse environmental impacts have been identified. As such, a negative declaration was prepared and approved by the City of Porterville for use in this proposal.

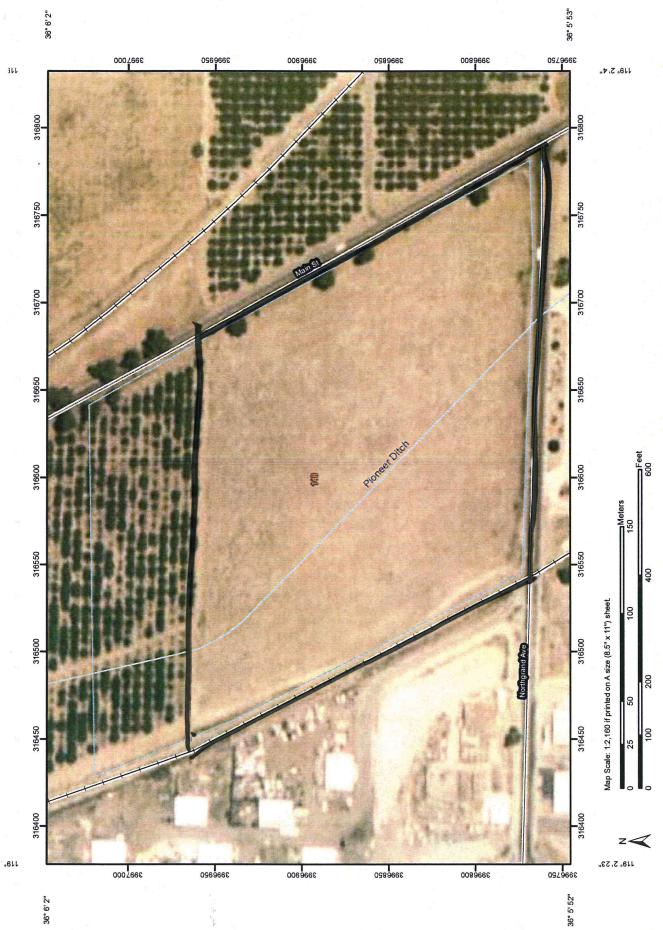
- 2. Find that the proposed annexation to the City of Porterville complies with the policies and priorities of the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Act, Section 56377.
- 3. Pursuant to LAFCO Policy and Procedure Section C-1.2, find that:
  - a. The boundaries of the proposed formation must be definite and certain and must conform to lines of assessment.
  - b. There is a demonstrated need for municipal services and controls and that the city has the capability of meeting this need.
  - c. There is a mutual social and economic interest between the residents of the city and the proposed annexation territory.
  - d. The proposed annexation is compatible with the City's General Plan.
  - e. The proposed annexation represents a logical and reasonable expansion of the annexing municipality.
- 4. Approve the annexation, to be known as LAFCO Case No. 1501-P-313, Porterville Annexation No. 477 subject to the following condition:
  - A.) No change be made to land use designations or zoning for a period of two years after the completion of the annexation, unless the city council makes a finding at a public hearing that a substantial change has occurred in circumstances that necessitate a departure from the designation or zoning.
- 5. Waive the protest hearing for this proposal in accordance with subsection (c) of Government Code section 56663 and order the change of organization without an election.

#### Figures, Exhibits & Appendices:

- Figure 1 Site Location Map
- Figure 2 Aerial Photo







#### **BEFORE THE LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION**

#### OF THE

#### COUNTY OF TULARE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Proposed Annexation	)	
To the City of Porterville,	)	
LAFCO Case 1501-P-313	)	RESOLUTION NO. 13-017
City of Porterville Annexation No. 477	)	

WHEREAS, application has been made to this Commission pursuant to the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 (Government Code Sections 56000 et seq.) for approval of a proposal to annex certain territories described in Exhibit "A" attached hereto and made a part hereof; and

WHEREAS, this Commission has read and considered the Resolution of Application and application materials, the report of the County Surveyor and the report and recommendations of the Executive Officer, all of which documents and materials are incorporated by reference herein; and

**WHEREAS,** on December 4, 2013 this Commission heard, received, and considered testimony, comments, recommendations and reports from all persons present and desiring to be heard concerning this matter.

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

1. The information, material and facts set forth in the application, the report of the County Surveyor, and the report of the Executive Officer (including any corrections), have been received and considered in accordance with Government Code

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Section 56668. All of said information, materials, facts, reports and other evidence are incorporated by reference herein.

2. The Commission hereby finds that there is no substantial evidence that said annexation will have a significant effect on the environment, and certifies that the Commission has independently reviewed and considered the information contained in the Mitigated Negative Declaration approved by the City of Porterville for the proposed annexation in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970, as amended, prior to taking action on said annexation. Accordingly, said Mitigated Negative Declaration is hereby incorporated by reference herein.

3. The Commission has reviewed and considered, in accordance with Government Code Section 56668, the information, materials and facts presented by the following persons who appeared at the public hearing and commented on the proposal:

XXXX

4. All notices required by law have been given and all proceedings heretofore and now taken in this matter have been and now are in all respects as required by law.

5. Based upon the evidence and information on the record before it, the Commission makes the following findings of fact:

- a. This proposal is for the annexation of territory consisting of 10.5 acres of land.
- b. Less than 12 registered voters reside in the affected territory and 100% landowner consent was received.
- c. Based upon the evidence and information on the record before it and the logical and reasonable expansion of the annexing municipality.

6. Based upon the evidence and information on the record before it and the findings of fact made above, the Commission makes the following determinations:

- a. The boundaries of the proposed annexation territories are definite and certain and conform to lines of assessment.
- b. There is a demonstrated need for municipal services and controls and that the city has the capability of meeting this need.
- c. There is a mutual social and economic interest between the residents of the city and the proposed annexation territory.
- d. The proposed annexation is compatible with the City's General Plan.
- e. The proposed annexation represents a logical and reasonable expansion of the annexing municipality.
- f. This is an uninhabited annexation and written consent has been given by the affected owners of land within the territory to be annexed.
- g. This proposal is in compliance with the policies and priorities of GC §56377.
- 7. The Commission hereby authorizes the Executive Officer to conduct a

protest hearing subsequent to these proceedings and to report to the Commission the

results of that hearing for action in accordance with GC §§57000-57120.

8. The proposed annexation of the territory described in Exhibit "A" attached

hereto, is hereby approved, subject to the following conditions:

a. No change be made to land use designations or zoning for a period of two years after the completion of the annexation, unless the city council makes a finding at a public hearing that a substantial change has occurred in circumstances that necessitate a departure from the designation or zoning. 9. The following short form designation shall be used throughout these proceedings:

LAFCO Case No. 1501-P-313, City of Porterville Annexation No. 477

10. The Executive Officer is hereby authorized and directed to mail certified copies of this resolution as required by law.

11. The Executive Officer is hereby authorized and directed to sign the Notice of Determination on behalf of the Commission and file said notice with the Tulare County Clerk pursuant to Section 21152 (a) of the Public Resources Code.

The forgoing resolution was adopted upon motion of Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_, at a regular meeting held on this 4 day of December 2013, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

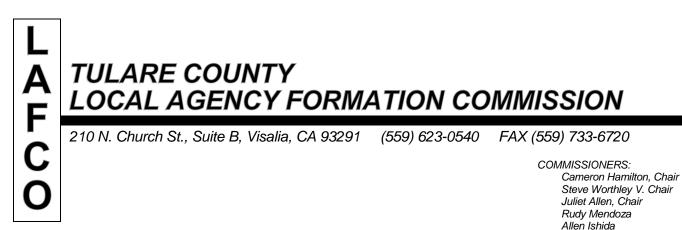
PRESENT:

ABSENT:

Ben Giuliani, Executive Officer

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December 4, 2013

TO:All LAFCO Commission Members and AlternatesFROM:Cynthia Echavarria, Staff Analyst

SUBJECT: Election of Officers for 2014

ALTERNATES: Mike Ennis Janet Hinesly Dennis Mederos

EXECUTIVE OFFICER: Ben Giuliani

Commission Policy A-4 requires that LAFCO Chair and Vice-Chair be annually chosen on a rotating basis (City-County-Public) so that all members will have an equal opportunity to serve as an officer. County representative Steve Worthley is scheduled to be selected as Chair. Public representative Julie Allen is scheduled to be selected as Vice-Chair. The Commission has traditionally rotated the Chair from a City to County to Public member. The terms of office for chair and vice-chair shall be one year from January 1 to December 31.

# Current Member Roster

Member	<u>Term Expires</u>
Steve Worthley (Chair - proposed)	May 2016
Allan Ishida (Commissioner)	May 2014
Juliet Allen (Vice Chair - proposed)	May 2014
Cameron Hamilton (Commissioner)	May 2016
Rudy Mendoza (Commissioner)	May 2015
Mike Ennis <i>(Alternate)</i>	May 2015
Janet Hinesly (Alternate)	May 2017
Dennis Mederos (Alternate)	May 2016

# **BEFORE THE LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION**

# OF THE

# COUNTY OF TULARE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Appointment ) Of a Local Agency Formation ) RESOLUTION NO. **13-XX** 

Commission Chair and Vice-Chair )

Upon motion of Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_ and seconded by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_, it is ordered that Commissioner Worthley be, and is hereby appointed Chair and Commissioner Allen be, and is hereby appointed Vice-Chair, for a term beginning January 1, 2014 ending on December 31, 2014.

The foregoing resolution was adopted at a regular meeting held on this 5th day of December 2013 the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

PRESENT:

ABSENT:

Ben Giuliani, Executive Officer

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# **BEFORE THE LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION**

# OF THE

# COUNTY OF TULARE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of Cancelling the )

January 8<sup>th</sup>, Commission Meeting)

**RESOLUTION NO. 13-0xx** 

Upon motion of Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_, the regular January 8th, 2013 Commission meeting is hereby cancelled, at a regular meeting held on this 4<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2013, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

PRESENT:

ABSENT:

Ben Giuliani, Executive Officer

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December 4, 2013

To: LAFCO Commissioners and Alternates From: Ben Giuliani, Executive Officer

Subject: Extraterritorial Service Agreements

Juliet Allen ALTERNATES: Mike Ennis Dennis Mederos

Janet Hinesly EXECUTIVE OFFICER: Ben Giuliani

# Summary

Pursuant to Policy C-6, the Executive Officer approved two ESAs between the City of Tulare and private property owners for the provision of domestic water. Both situations involved private wells running dry with the City being in position to extend its water lines to the affected properties. The location of the properties are shown in the attached Figure 1 - Site Location map.

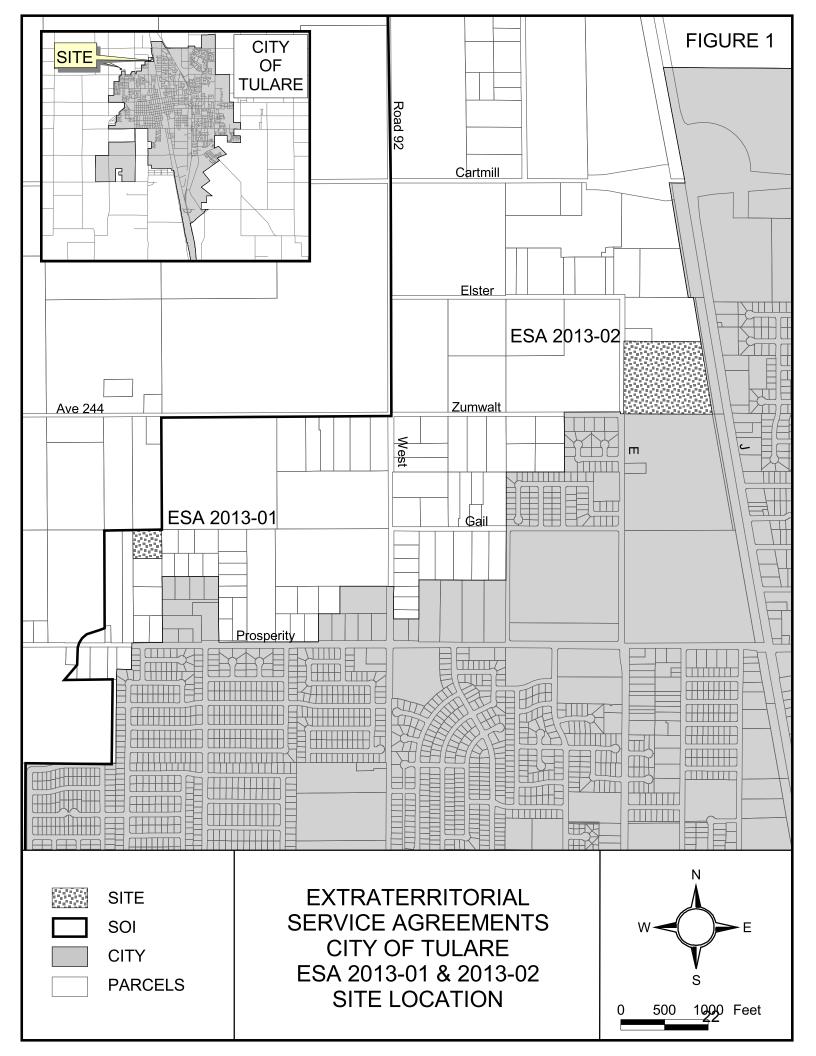
# Discussion

1) ESA 2013-01 (City of Tulare/Grant) was approved on 10/3/2013. The property is located to the north of W. Prosperity Avenue to the northeast of the City. The property is not contiguous to existing City boundaries and can not be annexed at this time.

2) ESA 2013-02 (City of Tulare/Whitten) was approved on 11/14/2013. The property is located on east side of N. E Street on the northeast boundary of the City. The property shouldn't be annexed at this time because the parcel is currently being actively farmed. The ESA allows for the connection of City domestic water to the homesite on the property.

# Attachments

Figure 1 – Tulare ESA Map





EXECUTIVE OFFICER: Ben Giuliani

December 4, 2013

To: LAFCO Commissioners and Alternates

From: Ben Giuliani, Executive Officer

Draft Amended LAFCO Policy A-5 (Commission Meetings and Subject: Hearings)

# Summary

The draft amended Policy A-5 (attached) was circulated to city and county staff for review on November 14th. The proposed policy would amend an affirmative vote by the Commission from a majority present to a majority of the full membership and would adopt Rosenberg's Rules of Order for the conduct of meetings.

# Discussion

Attached is the draft amendment to LAFCO's Policy A-5 (Commission Meetings and Hearings). There are two proposed amendments to the policy:

1) Under section 5.2(B), we are proposing to amend an affirmative vote by the Commission from a majority present to a majority of the full membership. Essentially, the current wording would allow a successful action with as little as two affirmative votes. The new wording would necessitate a minimum of three affirmative votes.

2) Under section 5.3(A), we are proposing to adopt Rosenberg's Rules of Order for the conduct of meetings. As presented at the September Commission meeting, it is essentially a simplified version of Roberts' Rules of Orders.

# Attachments

Proposed amended Policy A-5

# **Policies and Procedures** Tulare County Local Agency Formation Commission

Policy Number: A-5

Effective Date: March 7, 2007

Authority: GC Section 56000 et. Seq., and LAFCO Resolutions: 07-020, 09-015, 10-030

# Title: Commission Meetings and Hearings

- **Policy:** The method for setting meetings and conducting hearings shall be equitable, efficient, and clearly articulated.
- **Purpose:** To outline the method for setting meetings and conducting hearings.
- **Scope:** This procedure applies to all Tulare County LAFCO meetings and hearings.
- **History:** This was a new policy adopted on 3/7/07. The procedure was amended on 9/2/09 to add a process for the cancellation and overriding a cancellation of regular meetings (A-5.1.F). The original Policy C-8 (Conduct of Commission Business) contained duplicate information to Policy A-5. Unique information from Policy C-8 was moved to this policy and Policy C-8 was removed on 12/8/10.

# **Procedure:**

# 5.1. Meetings

- A. By November of each year, the Commission shall adopt a meeting schedule for the following calendar year.
- B. The regular meetings of the Commission shall be held the first Wednesday of each month at 2:00 p.m. at the Board of Supervisors Chambers. However, the Commission may set an alternate day, time and/or location in case of a holiday or other scheduling conflicts.
- C. If, for any reason, the business to be considered at a regular meeting cannot then be completed, the Commission may either continue the unfinished business to the next regular meeting or designate the time for an adjourned meeting. Such action shall serve as adequate notice to members present at such meeting and, with respect to members not present, it shall be the standing order that the Executive Officer shall endeavor to advise absentee members of the determination to hold such adjourned meeting. Such adjourned meeting shall not be later than the date for the next regular meeting.

- D. If a quorum of the Commission is not present, the members present may at such meeting designate the time for an adjourned meeting, or continue all business to the next regular meeting. If no members are present at such regular meeting, the Executive Officer may adjourn the meeting in which case all business on the agenda shall be continued to the next regular meeting. Any adjourned meeting shall not be later than the date for the next regular meeting. Such adjournment of meeting by members present shall serve as sufficient notice thereof to the general public and all members present, and it shall be the duty of the Executive Officer to employ such reasonable means as may be necessary to notify the absentees.
- E. The Chair, or three members, may direct the Executive Officer to send out notices for a special meeting, in accordance with GC §54956. Said notices may be mailed seven business days prior to the date of the meeting, or three days if notice is given by telephone or e-mail. The special meeting agenda and notice shall be posted at the Resource Management Agency Permit Center at least 24 hours prior to the special meeting.
- F. Any regular meeting may be cancelled either by action of the Commission or by direction of the Chair if the Executive Officer advises that there are no public hearings or matters of substance scheduled for that meeting. In such cases the other Commissioners, affected parties and the public shall be given seven days notice about the cancellation. The cancellation may be overridden if a majority of the Commissioners notifies the Executive Officer with their objection to the cancellation at least 72 hours prior to the cancelled meeting. (Resolution 09-015, 9-2-09)

#### 5.2. Quorum and Voting

- A. A majority (three) of the members and/or eligible voting alternates (see Policy A-4.3) of the Commission shall constitute a quorum for the conduct of routine business.
- B. The affirmative vote of a majority of the members present *full membership* at any qualified meeting shall be sufficient to act on any matter before the Commission. A tie vote shall constitute non-action, except that a subsequent tie vote on the same or an identical motion shall constitute denial without prejudice.
- C. All members of the Commission, both regular and alternate, are encouraged to participate in the discussions of a proposal before the Commission. However, only regular members may vote on an action. Alternates may vote only when sitting in place of a regular member who is absent or is disqualified from a particular action.
- D. The representation by a member or alternate of a city or district shall not disqualify, or be cause for disqualification of, the member or alternate from

acting on a proposal affecting the city or the district, as provided by GC §56336.

E. The determination by a Commissioner to abstain from voting on any action before the Commission does not indicate, and shall not be counted as, either a "yes" or "no" vote on that count.

# 5.3. Conduct of Business

- A. Roberts' Rules of Order or other accepted procedures such as used by the Tulare County Board of Supervisors *Rosenberg's Rules of Order* shall govern the conduct of meetings of the Commission.
- B. The typical order of business of the Commission is:
  - I. Call to Order
  - II. Approval of minutes from previous meeting
  - III. Public Comment Period
  - IV. Consent Calendar
  - V. Continued Action Items
  - VI. New Action Items
  - VII. Executive Officer's Report
  - VIII. Correspondence
  - IX. Other Business
  - X. Setting time and place of next meeting
  - XI. Adjournment

# 5.4. Hearings

- A. Hearings conducted by the Commission shall conform to the provisions of law in the matter of public notice, time, number and reporting.
- B. A formal hearing before the Commission which, for any reason, can not be completed at the time and/or place originally advertised shall be continued to a subsequent regular or adjourned meeting of the Commission, and the announcement of such continuance and the time and place of such continued hearing shall constitute a sufficient notice to all parties concerned.
- C. Any matter coming before the Commission may, if deemed necessary, be referred to staff or a committee of the Commission for additional study and recommendation. Except as herein below provided, any member, or members, designated by the Chair for the purpose, shall be authorized and qualified to preside over and conduct any informal public meeting, provided that the purpose of such meeting shall be confined to the taking and recording of a summary of all pertinent testimony. The member, or members, conducting such meeting shall summarize the testimony introduced and render an opinion thereon to the full Commission. The decision on all matters held at such informal meetings before a member, or members, shall, however, be made only at and by a regular meeting of the Commission.

D. In the case of hearings which are held on more than one meeting, any Commissioner who was not present at all the hearings on a particular matter and has not heard all of the testimony, shall abstain from voting on the matter subject to the hearing. However, if for any reason it becomes necessary for a Commissioner who has not heard all of the testimony on a particular matter to take an action on the matter, the Commissioner may do so if the Commissioner has listened to the tape recording of the hearing(s) that he/she has missed.

# 5.5. Brown Act Compliance

- A. At least 72 hours (3 days) before a regular meeting, the Commission's agenda containing a brief general description of each public hearing and item of business to be transacted or discussed, shall be posted on the Commission's website and at the front public counter at the Resource Management Agency Permits Center, Visalia, California, complete with the time and location of the meeting.
- B. Action shall be taken only on those items appearing on the posted agenda except under an emergency situation or special circumstance pursuant to state law regulations.
- C. The agenda shall provide an opportunity for the general public to directly address the Commission on items of interest to the public within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Commission. The comment period shall be limited to five minutes for each individual and thirty minutes overall or as determined by the Commission Chair at the beginning of the public hearing.
- D. Posted notice for special meetings shall be a minimum of twenty-four hours prior to the meeting and as soon as possible for emergency meetings pursuant to state law regulations.
- E. The Commission may hold Closed Sessions during a regular or special meeting as allowed by the Ralph M. Brown Act (GC §54950 et seq.)
- F. The Commission shall observe all other applicable regulations and requirements under the Brown Act.

#### 5.6. Suspension or Change to Rules of Order

Any of these rules not required by law may be suspended or changed by a majority of the members of the Commission.

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# A F C O

# **TULARE COUNTY** LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

210 N. Church Street, Suite B, Visalia 93291 Phone: (559) 623-0450 FAX: (559) 733-6720

December 4, 2013

To: LAFCO Commissioners and Alternates

From: Cynthia Echavarria, Staff Analyst

Subject: 2013 Map Presentation COMMISSIONERS: Steve Worthley, V. Chair Cameron Hamilton, Chair Juliet Allen Rudy Mendoza Allen Ishida

ALTERNATES: Dennis A. Mederos Janet Hinesly Mike Ennis

EXECUTIVE OFFICER: Ben Giuliani

Local Agency Formation Commissions (LAFCOs) were established in each California county with the purpose of discouraging urban sprawl, preserving openspace and prime agricultural lands, efficiently providing governmental services to the residents of their respective counties, and encouraging the orderly formation and development of local agencies (i.e. cities and special districts) based on local conditions and circumstances. To help the Commission accomplish its propose, the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Reorganization Act of 2000 (Act) establishes procedures for local government changes of organization that are subject to commission review and approval such as annexations to a city or special district, city incorporation, district formation and consolidation of districts. A copy of the latest version of the Act can be accessed here http://alcl.assembly.ca.gov/publications.

A series of maps, graphs and tables are presented each December, which track changes within several categories under the purview of the Commission. These maps not only provide the Commission insight into future issues, challenges, and opportunities that could arise during consideration of future proposals, but they also serve as a gauge of the Commission's progress in accomplishing their purpose. The following is a summary of the materials contained in this presentation.

# Figure 1 (LAFCO Activity Overview)

During the calendar year 2013, Tulare County LAFCO approved eight proposals:

- Adoption of the City of Visalia's Municipal Service Review Update
- Adoption of the City of Tulare's Municipal Service Review Update
- Amendments to Tulare County LAFCO Policy C-9
- Earlimart PUD Detachment 2013-1
- Lindmore Irrigation District Reorganization 2011-1
- Lower Tule River Irrigation District Detachment 2013-7-2, •
- Pixley Irrigation District Reorganization 2013-7-1,

• City of Tulare ESAs 2013-1 and 2013-2

This map provides an overview of where this activity took place.

**Tables 1 (Cities) and Table 2 (Special Districts)** correspond to Figure 1. The tables summarize city and special district growth in terms of total acreage and square mileage over the period 1/1/1980 to 1/1/2014. Cities and special districts that annexed territory into their jurisdictional boundaries during 2013 are highlighted in blue, while districts that simply extended services to an area outside of their jurisdictional boundaries through an Extraterritorial Service Agreement (ESA) are highlighted in red.

Note: Only districts that provide an urban level of service appear on Table 2. Growth of these districts, in terms of acreage and square mileage, is a dependable indicator of pressure on open space and agricultural land as well as demand for urban services and space. There were no extraterritorial service agreements approved in 2013.

The County's four most populace cities experienced the largest total acreage increase and highest square mileage growth rate from 1/1/1980 to 1/1/2014. The special districts listed have experienced little growth over the last 32 years. Eight special districts: Strathmore PUD, Earlimart PUD, Ivanhoe PUD, Poplar PUD, Ivanhoe Irrigation District, Lindmore Irrigation District, Pixley Irrigation District, and Lower Tule River Irrigation District have annexed or detached territory, one district, Alpaugh CSD has been formed and one district, Tulare County Waterworks District #1 has been dissolved over the last 5 years. Generally, Tulare County special districts lack the financial resources and adequate infrastructure to support additional growth of any type. Table 2 indicates that districts containing the most populated unincorporated communities within their jurisdictional boundaries have experienced the largest gain in total acreage and largest percentage increase in square mileage area; however, most of that growth occurred from 1980 to 2000.

**Table 3** also corresponds to Figure 1. The table provides the total amount of acreage annexed each year and further divides the total into developed acres, undeveloped acres and road right-of-way (ROW) in terms of acres. The total amount of proposals considered by the Commission each year is also provided, as well as annexation proposals 300 acres in size or larger.

# City Maps

Individual maps of the County's (8) cities are included with Figure 1. Along with each city's SOI and potential annexations, the maps include disadvantaged communities located within a city's SOI or in an area that can reasonably be expected to be added to a city's SOI during future updates. A disadvantaged community is defined in LAFCO Policy C-5.11(C)

# Why Include Disadvantaged Communities

A city or special district SOI outlines where a city/special district will presumably grow over the next 20 years. In order to accurately assess a local agencies growth over this

period of time, a SOI must be based on the findings and determinations contained in each agency's Municipal Service Review (MSR).

A MSR is prepared by LAFCO and updated every 5 years or as needed. The document reviews all municipal services provided by a particular agency and determinations must be made with respect to the following factors:

(1) Growth and population projections for the affected area.

(2) The location and characteristics of any disadvantaged unincorporated communities within or contiguous to the sphere of influence.

(3) Present and planned capacity of public facilities and adequacy of public services, including infrastructure needs or deficiencies including needs or deficiencies related to sewers, municipal and industrial water, and structural fire protection in any disadvantaged unincorporated communities within or contiguous to the sphere of influence.

(4) Financial ability of agencies to provide services.

(5) Status of, and opportunities for, shared facilities.

(6) Accountability for community service needs, including governmental structure and operational efficiencies.

(7) Any other matter related to effective or efficient service delivery, as required by commission policy.

# Figure 2 (Prime Agricultural Soils)

This map shows the five classes of soils identified by the USDA Soil Survey of Tulare County and their location throughout the County. Class 1 and 2 are identified as prime agricultural soils, all other classes are considered non-prime. Visalia and Tulare, the county's fastest growing cities in terms of total acreage annexed, are predominately surrounded by Class 1 and 2 soils. This indicates that a large portion of prime agricultural land will inevitably be converted to urban uses. In order to curb the loss of prime agricultural land, the Commission could explore the possibility of preparing an ag mitigation policy similar to that of other LAFCO's in the State.

**Table 4** – This table corresponds to Figure 2. The table shows the loss of prime agricultural soils from 1/1/1980 to 1/1/2014, both in terms of total acreage and percentage of square mileage. The table also contains a pie chart illustrating the proportion each soil class represents of all soil within Tulare County

# Figure 3 (Williamson Act Land)

In order for land to be considered prime agricultural land, it must meet one of five requirements listed under GC 56064; a USDA 1 or 2 soil classification is listed as a requirement. While land under Williamson Act contract isn't specifically defined as prime under Code, it can be an indicator of the presence of other qualifications for prime land. Also, the locations of contracts with notices of non-renewal may indicate future growth pressure in the area.

# Figure 4 (Land Uses)

The various land uses in the county can also be indicators of what would qualify as prime agricultural land pursuant to the economic qualifications detailed in GC 56064 (e).

# Figure 5 (Lands Owned by Government Entities)

This map identifies lands owned by the federal, state, county, city, district (all types of districts including special districts and school districts) governments. The map also includes land under trust for the purpose of open-space conservancy.

# Figure 6 (Dairy Land)

Dairy land would qualify as prime under the economic qualifications outlined in GC 56064 (e). The location of dairy land may also show restrictions to future city/district growth.

**Table 5** – For each of the last six years (2008-2013), this table shows total acreage annexed each year, the amount of acres pre-zoned residential, commercial, industrial, and institutional, and the percentage of the total acres annexed each land-use category represents.

# **Residential**

As the figures indicate, at the height of the housing bubble in 2006 annexations intended to accommodate residential development accounted for almost 75% of all acres annexed. In 2013 no annexations occurred in this category.

#### **Commercial**

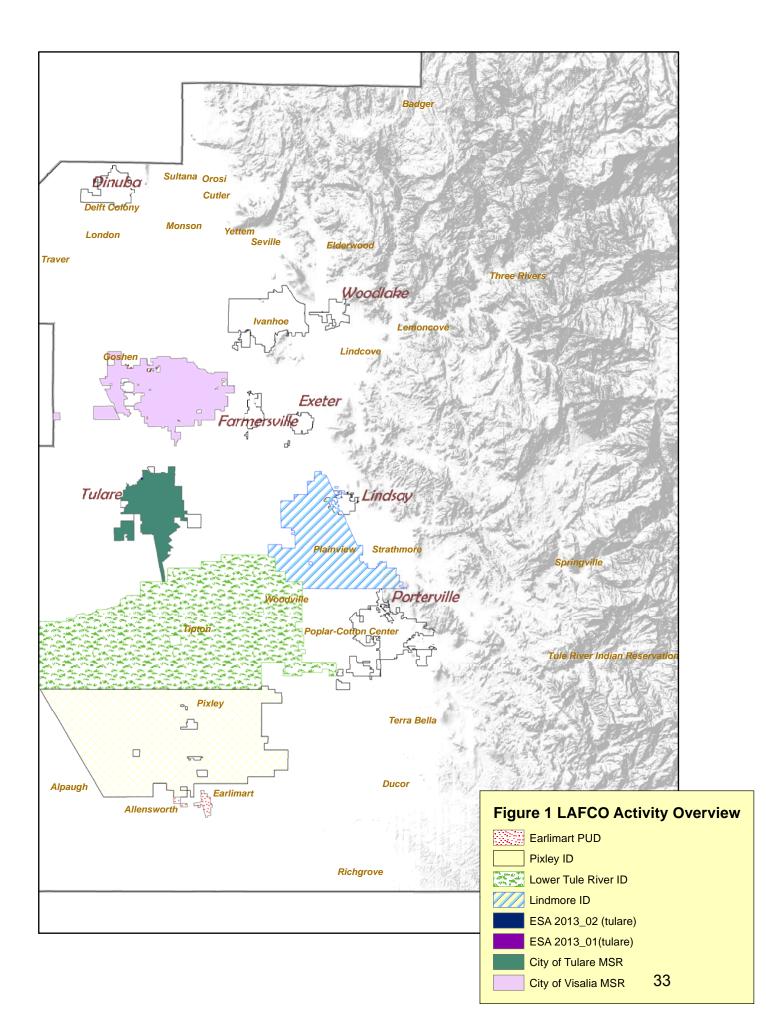
Commercial annexations saw modest spikes in 2007 (47% of total). Total commercial acres annexed between 2007 and 2013 were minimal with 77% of total commercial acreage annexed in 2007. In 2013 one annexation may occurred in this category, but if the annexation is approved the annexed land will be re-zoned to Industrial.

#### Industrial

2007 and 2011 experienced spikes in industrial annexations; however, these were the result of a single annexation in each year. All industrial sites annexed between 2006 and 2007 remain undeveloped; a fact that will figure prominently as the Commission looks to establish a commercial/industrial land demand methodology. In 2013 no annexations occurred in this category. As mentioned above, one annexation could occur that if approved the annexed land will be re-zoned to Industrial.

#### Institutional

This type of use includes sites slated for the development of parks, accommodation of city municipal service facilities, road improvements or construction, etc. Annexation rates for this type of use remained steady between 2006 and 2010. In 2013 no annexations occurred in this category.

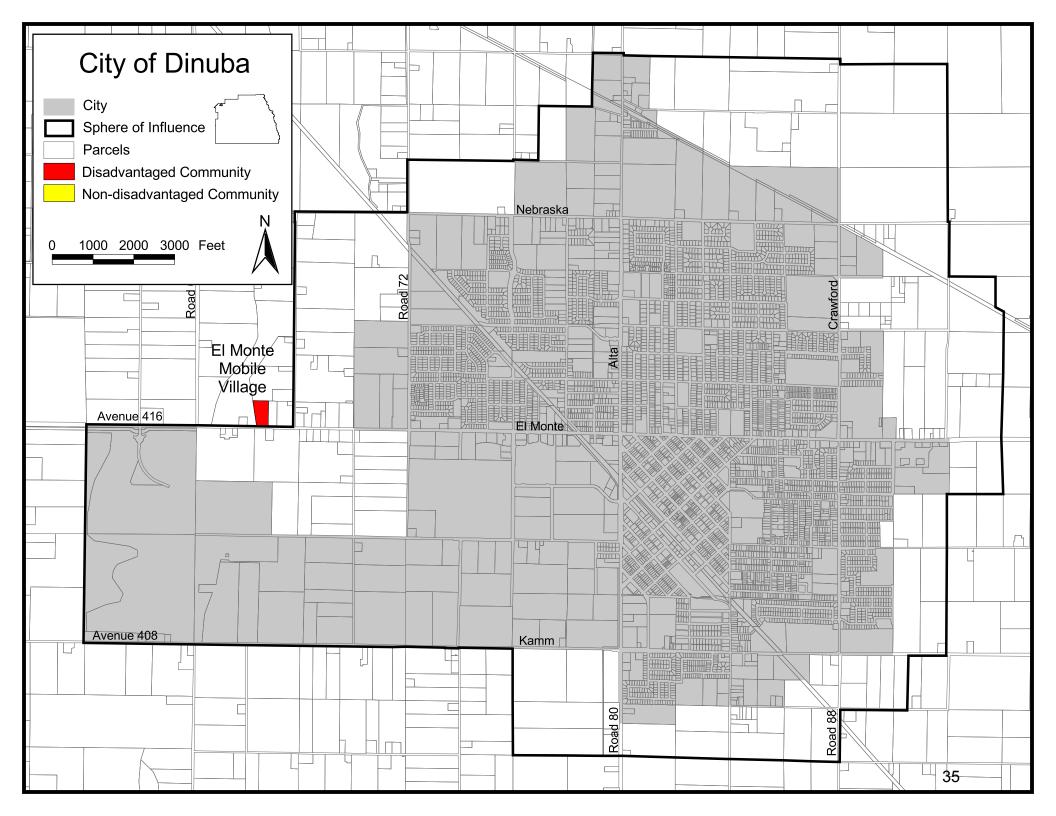


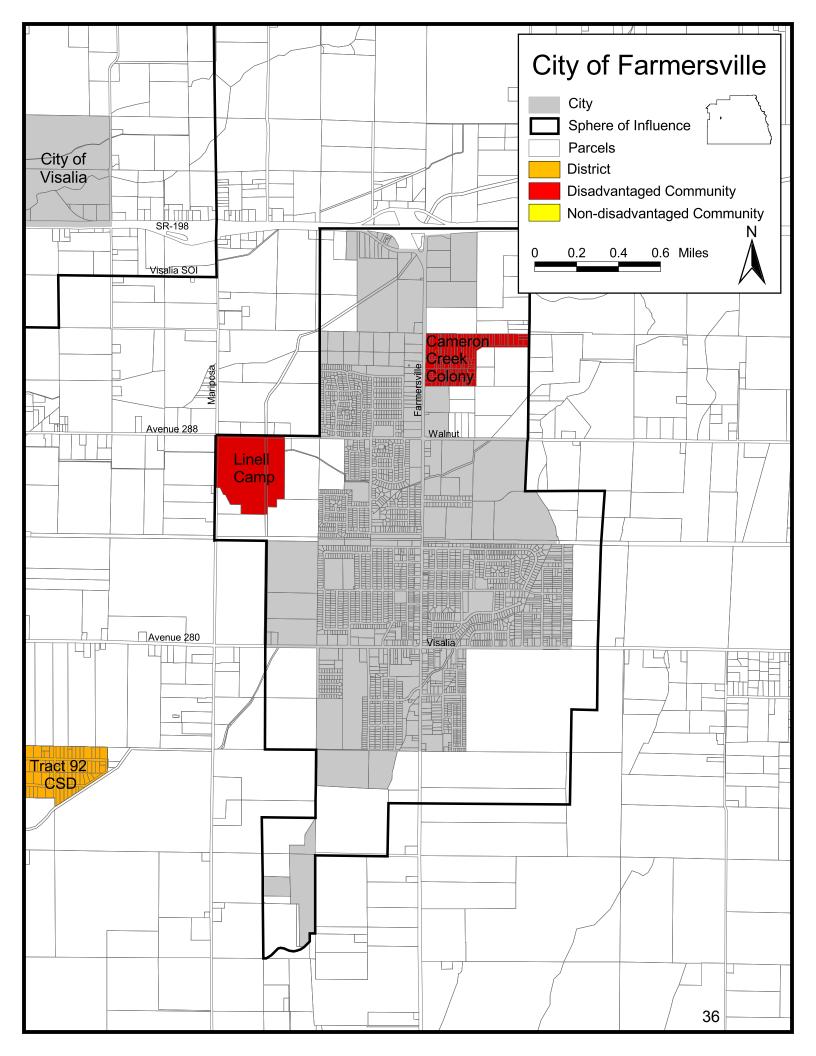
-	1/1/1980	1/1/2013	Annexed	1/1/1980	1/1/2013	Annexed	%
	Acres	Acres	Acres	Sq. Miles	Sq. Miles	Sq. Miles	Increase
Dinuba	1,429.4	3,719.3	2,289.9	2.2	5.8	3.6	160.2
Exeter	1,168.2	1,568.0	399.8	1.8	2.4	0.6	34.2
Farmersville	935.5	1,355.8	420.4	1.5	2.1	0.7	44.9
Lindsay	1,370.5	1,654.8	284.4	2.1	2.6	0.4	20.7
Porterville	6,429.9	10,847.7	4,417.8	10.0	16.9	6.9	68.7
Tulare	7,106.4	13,222.0	6,115.6	11.1	20.7	9.6	86.1
Visalia	13,253.4	23,440.7	10,187.3	20.7	36.6	15.9	76.9
Woodlake	925.0	1,770.9	845.9	1.4	2.8	1.3	91.4
CITY TOTAL	32,618.2	57,579.3	24,961.1	51.0	90.0	39.0	76.5

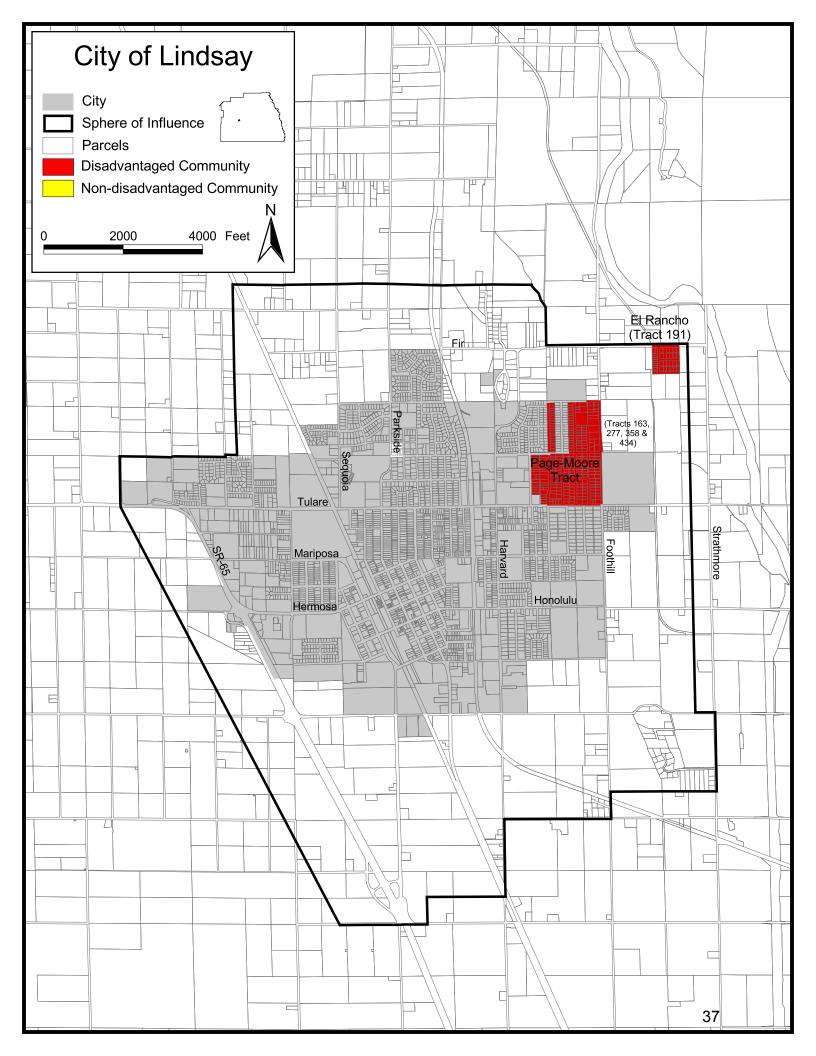
# Table 1 - City Area Increase 1980 to 2012

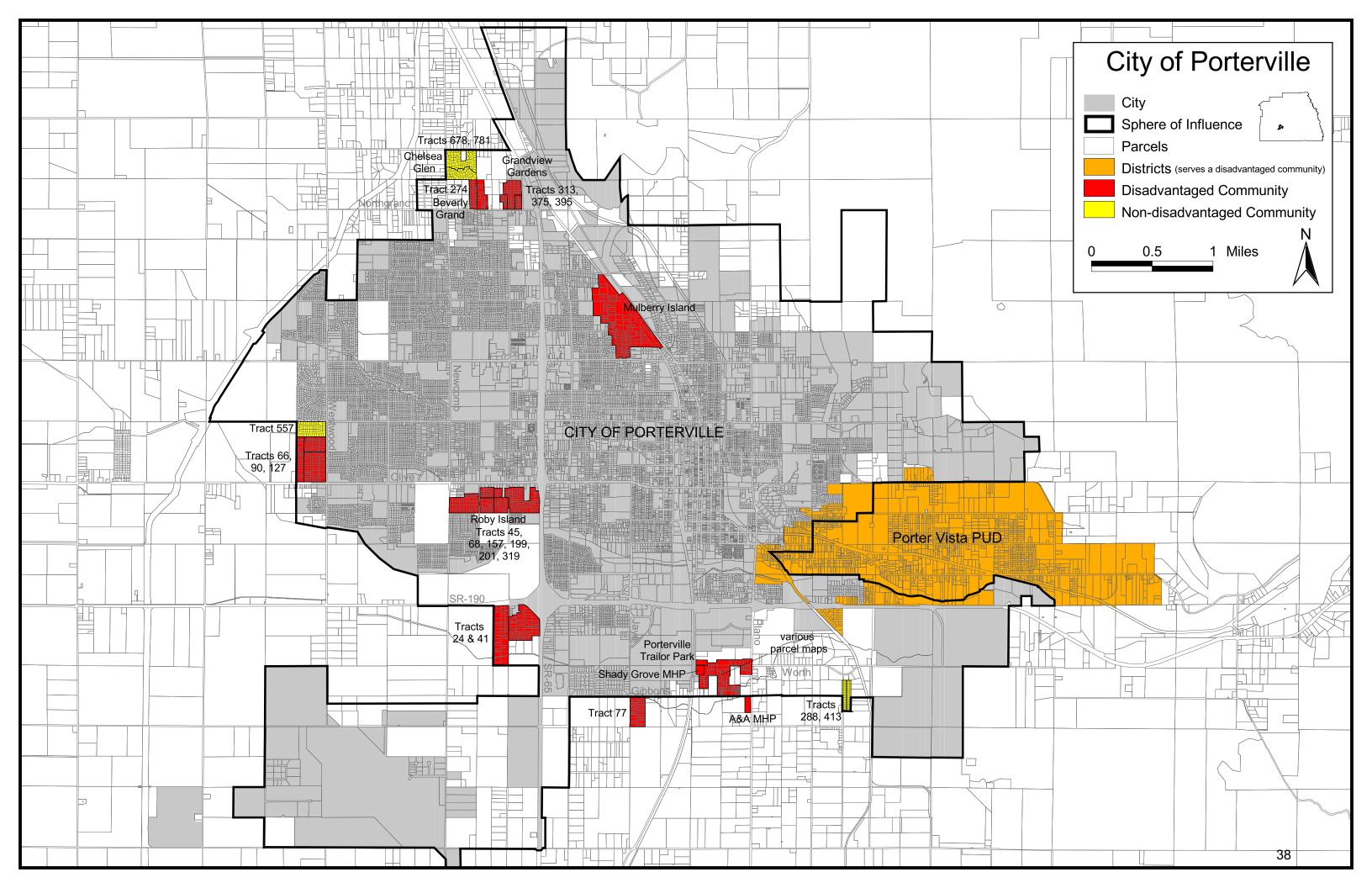
# Table 2 - Urban District Area Increase 1980 to 2012

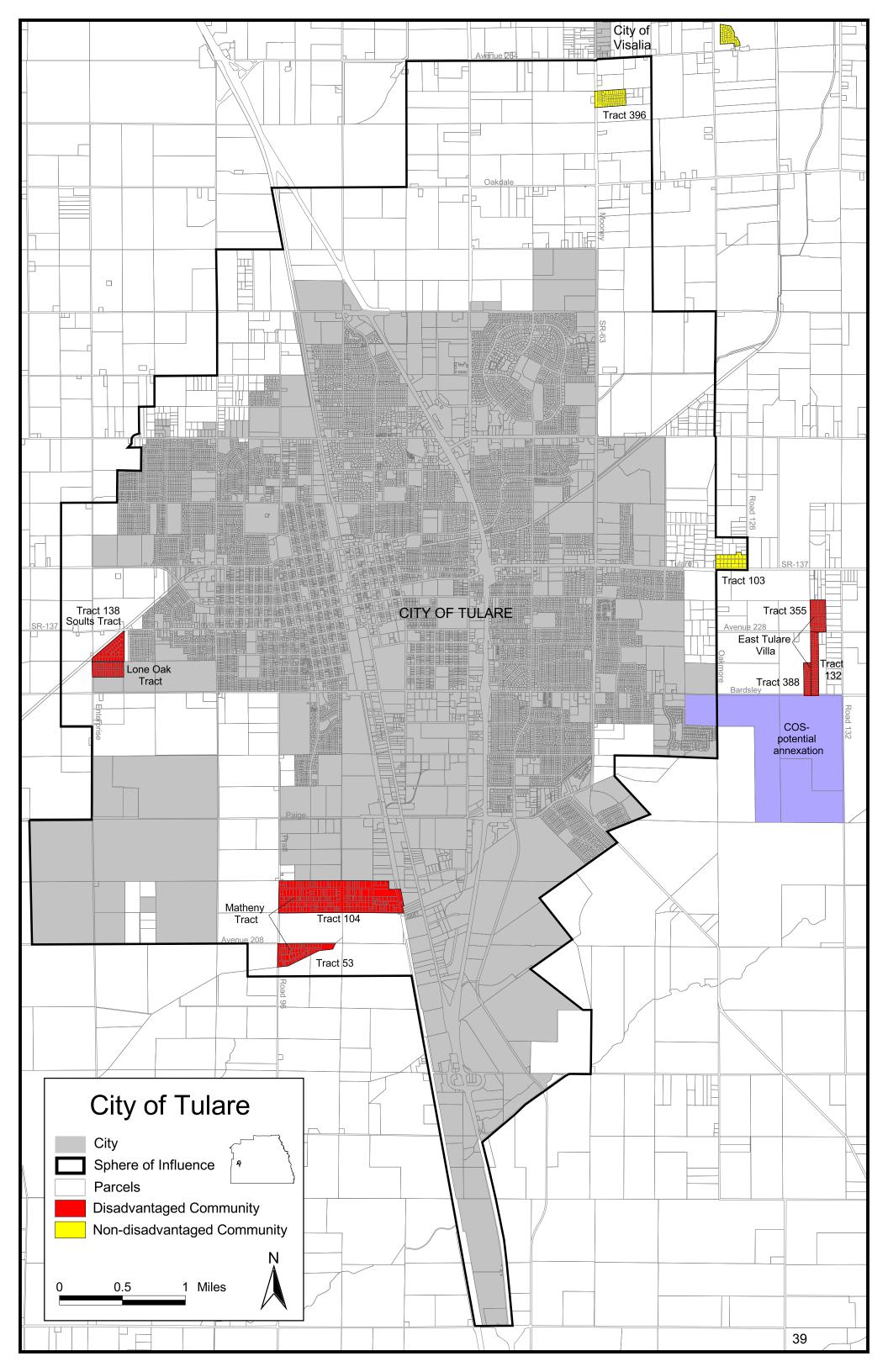
	1/1/1980	1/1/2013	Annexed	1/1/1980	1/1/2013	Annexed	%
	Acres	Acres	Acres	Sq. Miles	Sq. Miles	Sq. Miles	Increase
Allensworth CSD	783.1	783.1	0.0	1.2	1.2	0.0	0.0
AV/SC CSD	985.3	985.3	0.0	1.5	1.5	0.0	0.0
Cutler PUD	581.5	665.1	83.6	0.9	1.0	0.1	14.4
Ducor CSD	263.3	263.3	0.0	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.0
Earlimart PUD	816.8	972.4	155.5	1.3	1.5	0.2	19.0
East Orosi CSD	52.9	52.9	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0
Goshen CSD	514.5	1,144.8	630.3	0.8	1.8	1.0	122.5
Ivanhoe PUD	594.8	626.9	32.1	0.9	1.0	0.1	5.4
Lemon Cove SD	21.3	24.0	2.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	13.0
London CSD	189.7	189.7	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.0
Orosi PUD	717.0	887.7	170.7	1.1	1.4	0.3	23.8
Patterson Tract CSD	77.9	77.9	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0
Pixley PUD	633.7	888.9	255.2	1.0	1.4	0.4	40.3
Ponderosa CSD	251.6	251.6	0.0	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.0
Poplar CSD	215.1	418.1	203.0	0.3	0.7	0.3	94.4
Porter Vista PUD	1,742.8	1,742.8	0.0	2.7	2.7	0.0	0.0
Richgrove CSD	263.4	361.9	98.5	0.4	0.6	0.2	37.4
Springville PUD	303.7	308.8	5.1	0.5	0.5	0.0	1.7
Strathmore PUD	398.0	417.6	19.7	0.6	0.7	0.0	4.9
Sultana CSD	317.3	317.3	0.0	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.0
Terra Bella SMD	165.1	169.6	4.6	0.3	0.3	0.0	2.8
Teviston CSD	191.5	191.5	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.0
Three Rivers CSD	5,253.4	5,253.4	0.0	8.2	8.2	0.0	0.0
Tipton CSD	673.0	683.3	10.3	1.1	1.1	0.0	1.5
Tract 92 CSD	73.4	73.4	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0
Woodville PUD	319.2	336.3	17.0	0.5	0.5	0.0	5.3
DISTRICT TOTAL	16,399.3	18,087.8	1,688.5	25.6	28.3	2.6	10.3

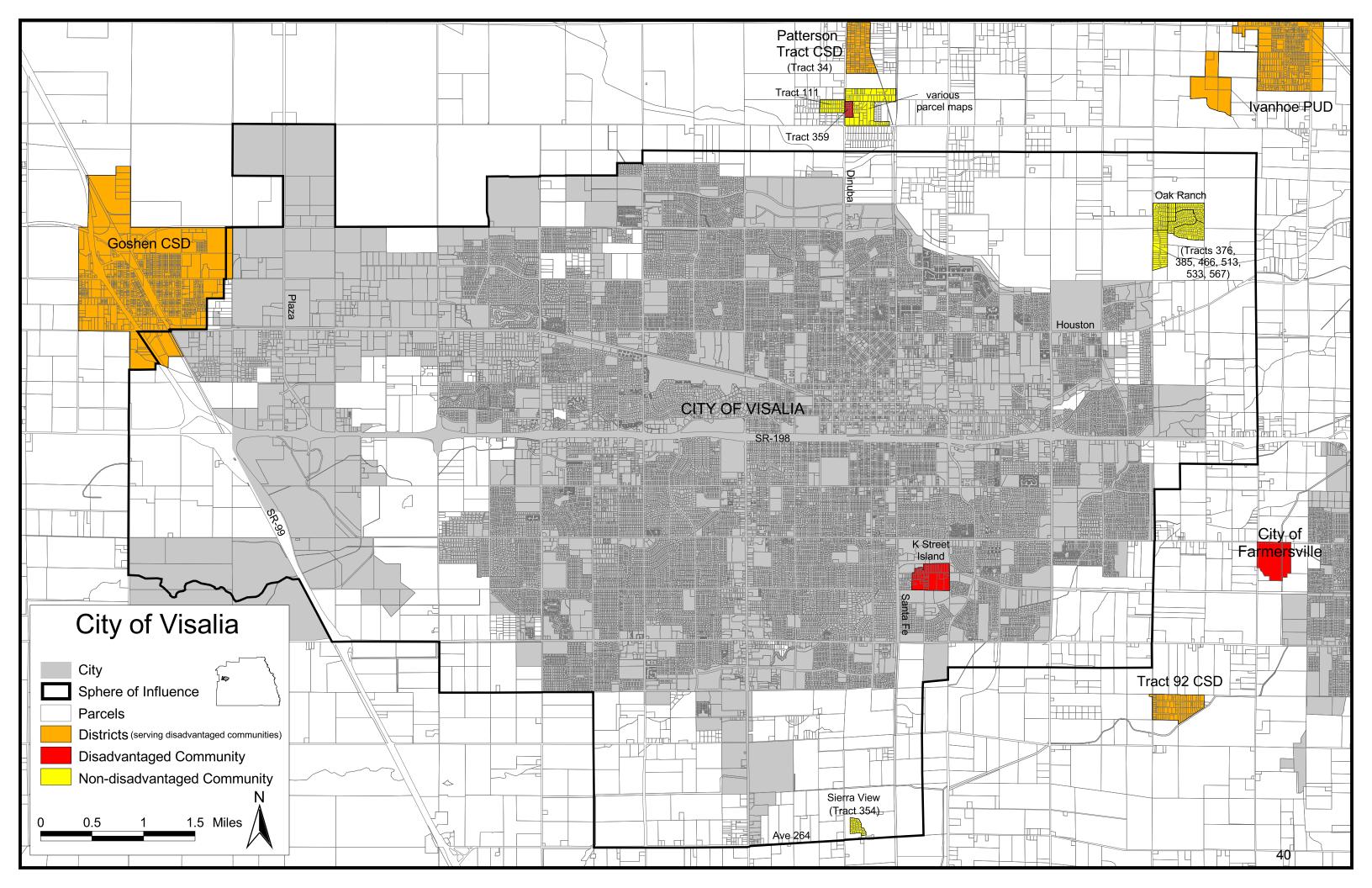


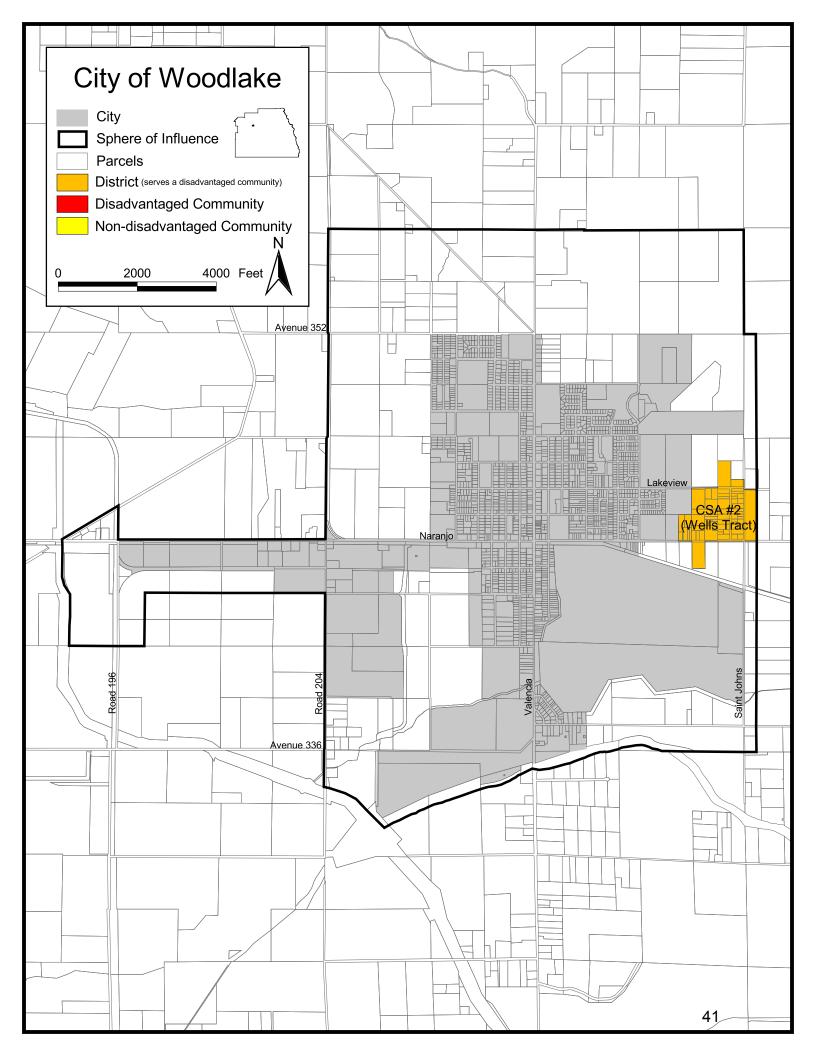


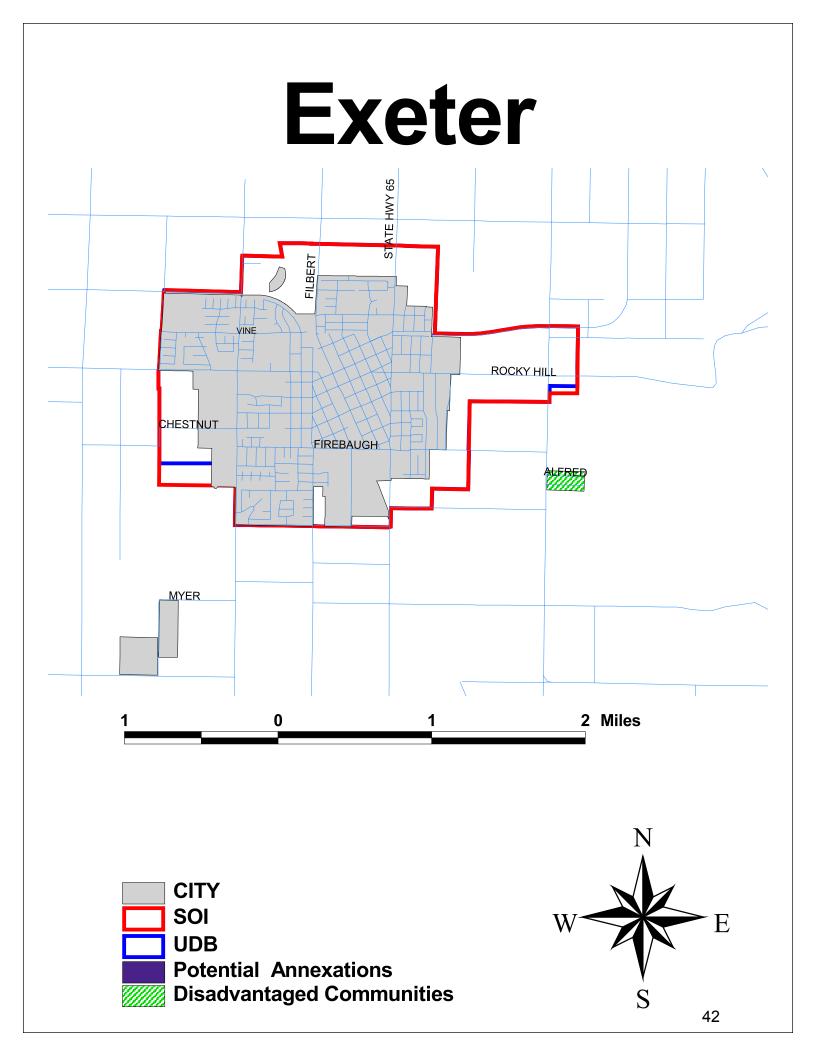


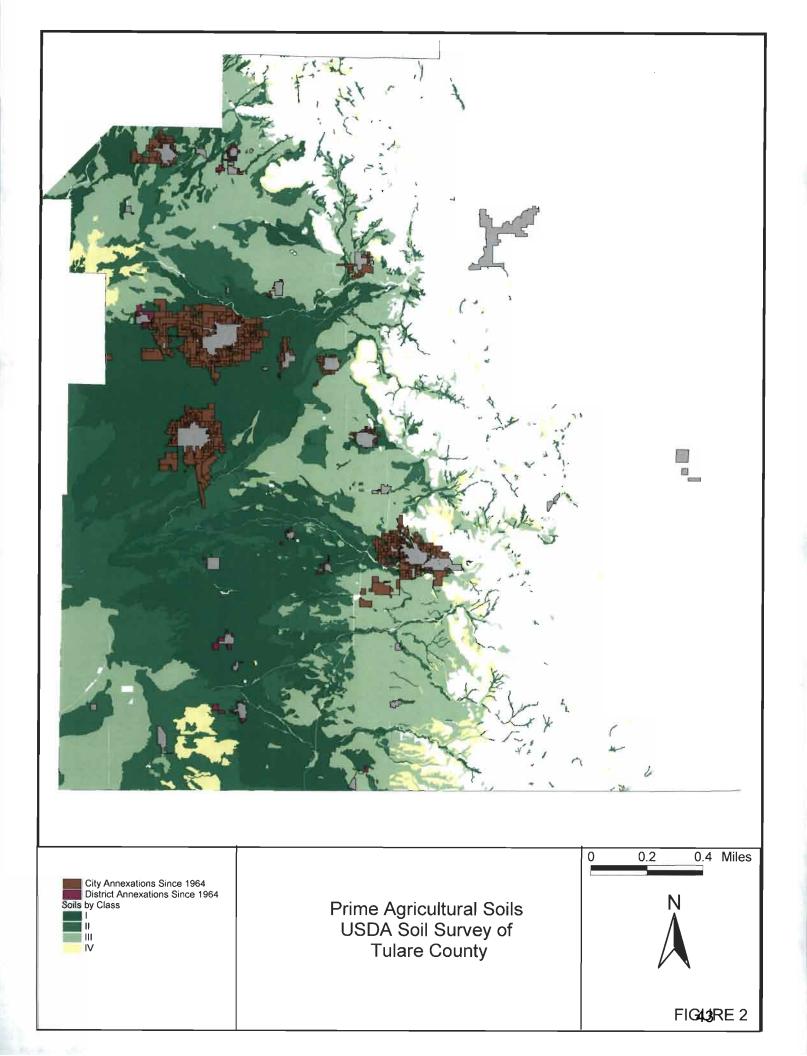












			•		/		
	1/1/1980	1/1/2013	Annexed	1/1/1980	1/1/2013	Annexed	%
	Acres	Acres	Acres	Sq. Miles	Sq. Miles	Sq. Miles	Decrease
Class I	392,000.6	373,964.6	18,036.0	612.5	584.3	28.2	4.6
Class II	115,157.4	112,334.8	2,822.6	179.9	175.5	4.4	2.5
Non-Prime	596,052.7	591,875.2	4,177.5	931.3	924.8	6.5	0.7
Other	1,946,963.9	1,945,194.7	1,769.2	3,042.1	3,039.4	2.8	0.1
Cities/Districts	49,017.5	75,667.1	26,596.5	76.6	118.2	41.6	(46.3)

# Table 4 - Annexations per Soil Type (USDA classifications) 1980 to 2013

Notes:

\*The acreage and square mileage figures for soil types exclude areas inside City, PUD, CSD and SMD boundaries.

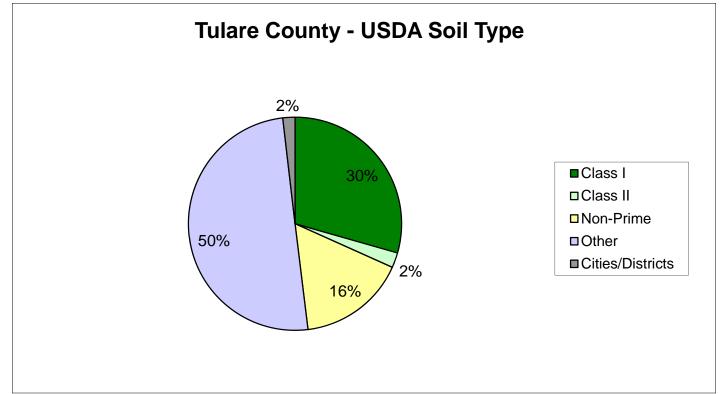
\*Other smaller developed areas within the County are not taken into account.

\*Undeveloped versus developed annexations are not taken into account.

\*While classified as Non-Prime by the USDA, much of the areas covered by these soils would qualify as Prime for LAFCO purposes (GC Section 56064).

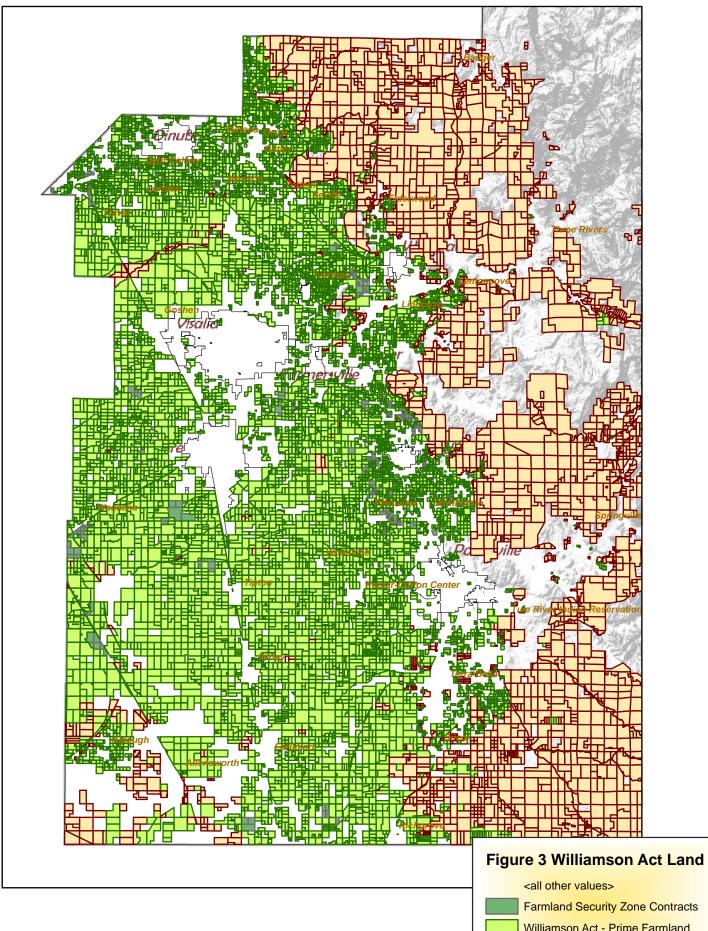
\*'Other' includes exposed rock, rocky soils and water. Mostly consisting of the foothill and mountain areas.

\*'Cities/Districts' include districts that are subject to urban development - CSDs, PUDs, SMDs

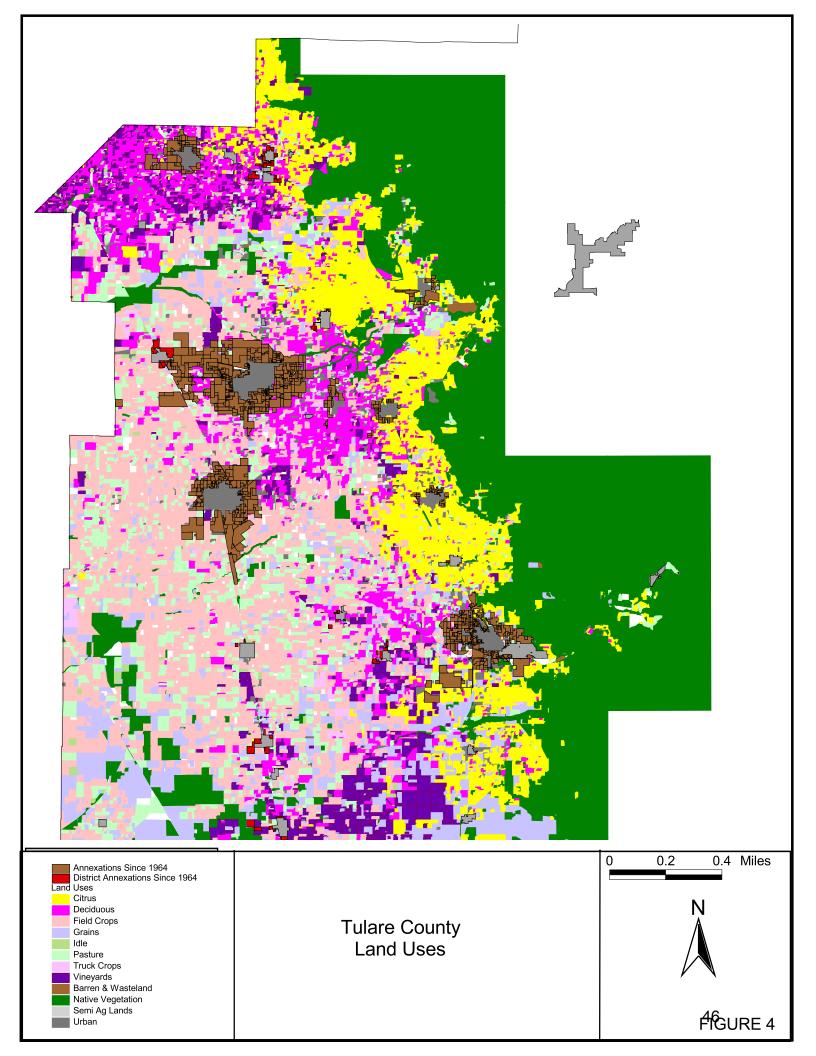


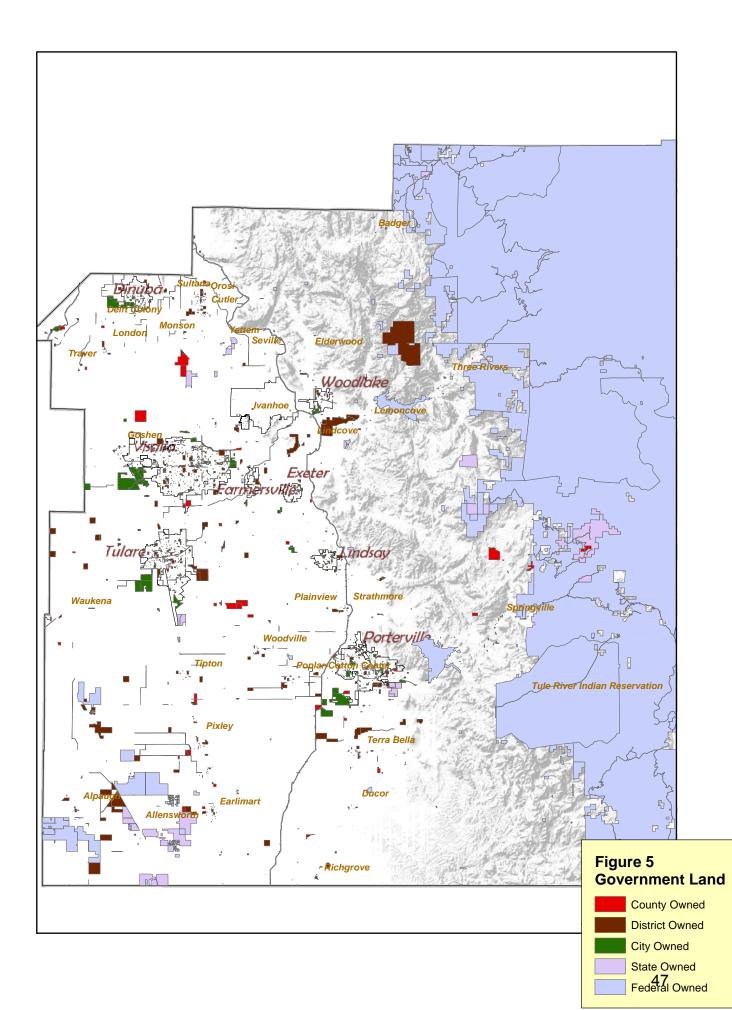
# Table 5 - Government & Conservancy Owned Land

			% of
	Acres	Sq. Miles	County
Federal	1,595,979	2,493.7	51.50
State	16,221	25.3	0.52
County	5,050	7.9	0.16
City	7,987	12.5	0.26
Districts	21,060	32.9	0.68
Conservancy	2,211	3.5	0.07
Private	1,450,684	2,266.7	46.81
		4,842.5	100.00

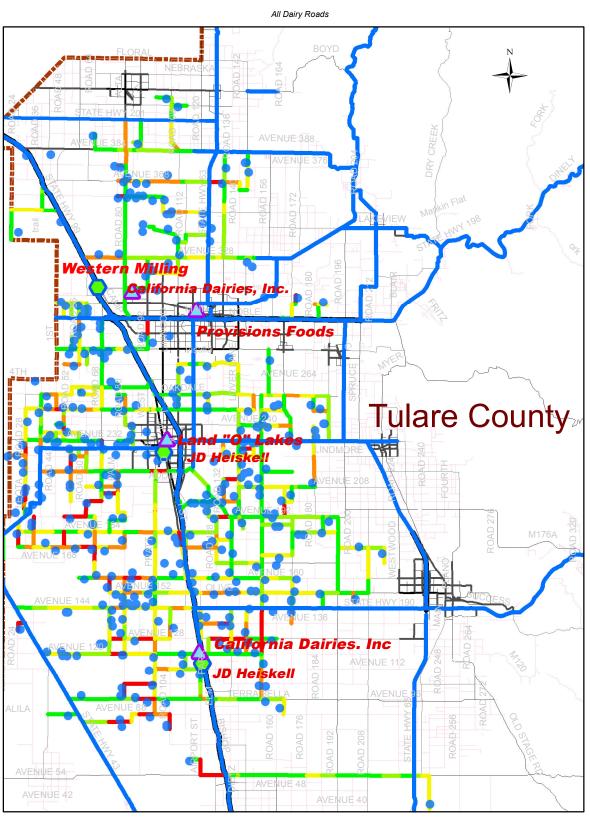


Williamson Act - Prime Farmland Williamson Act - Open Space





# Preliminary (Heavy Truck) Agricultural Routes for Rehabilitation

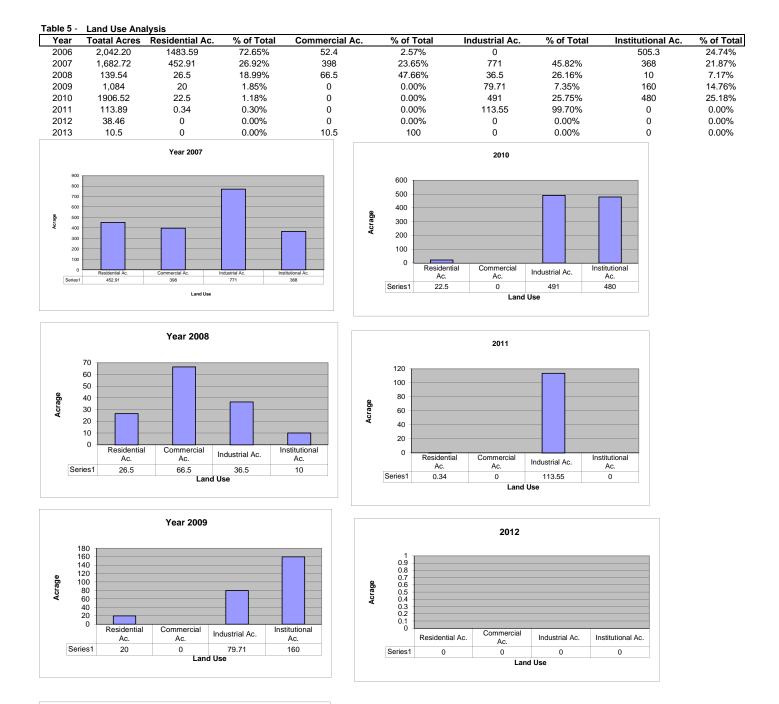


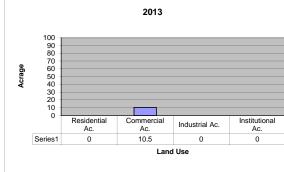


0 1.25 2.5 5 7.5 10

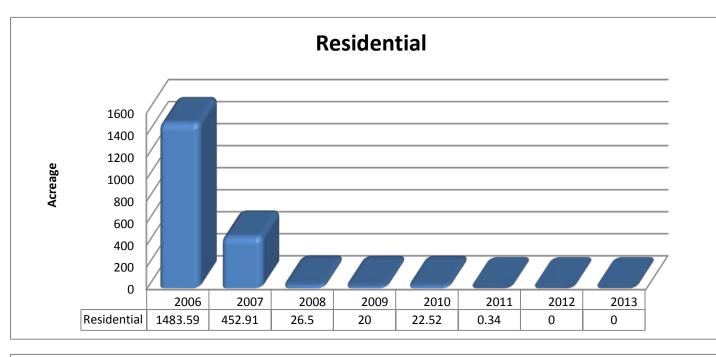


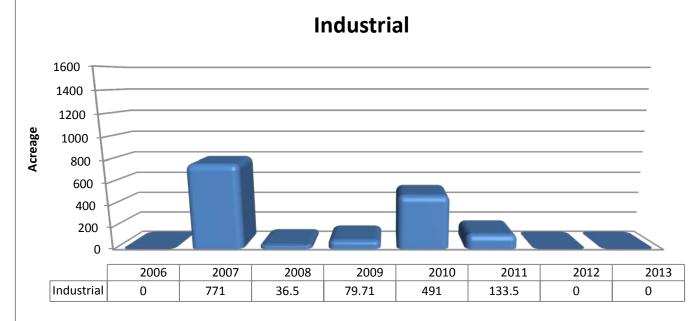
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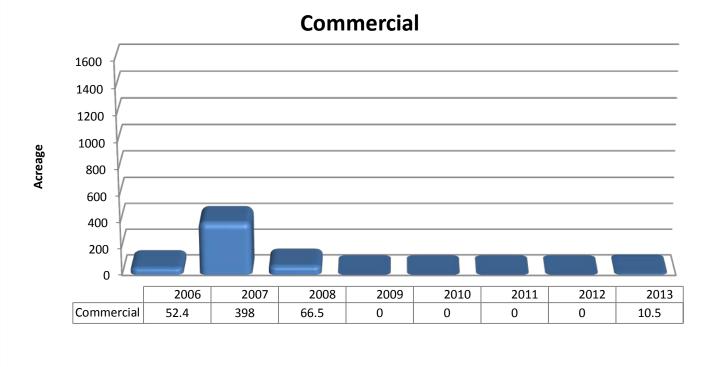


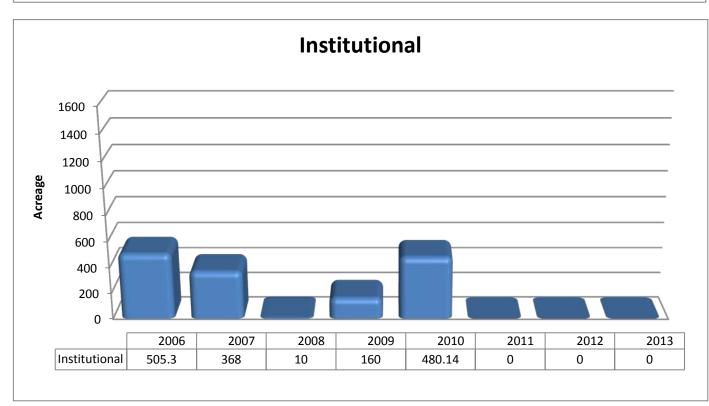


			т	able 5 Continued												
By Year						-										
Year	<b>Toatal Acres</b>	<b>Residential Ac.</b>	% of Total	Commercial Ac.	% of Total	Industrial Ac.	% of Total	Institutional Ac.	% of Total							
2006	2,042.20	1483.59	0.726466556	52.4	0.025658603	0		505.3	0.2474292							
2007	1,682.72	452.91	0.269153513	398	0.23652182	771	0.458186745	368	0.2186935							
2008	139.54	26.5	0.189909703	66.5	0.47656586	36.5	0.261573742	10	0.071664							
2009	1,084	20	0.018450185	0	0.76383764	79.71	0.07353321	160	0.1476015							
2010	1,907	22.52	0.011812097	0	0	491	0.257537293	480.14	0.2518411							
2011	113.89	0.34	0.002985337	0	0	113.55	0.997014663	0	0							
2012	38.46	0	0	0	0	0	0.000000000	0	0							
2013	10.50	0	0	10.5	1.0000000	0	0.000000000	0	0							
By Land Use Ty	ре															
Land Use	2006	% of total	2007	% of Total	2008	% of Total	2009	% of Total	2010	% of Total	2011	% of Total	2012	% of Total	2013	% of Total
Residential	1483.59	0.726466556	452.91	0.0256	26.5	0.189	20	0.018	22.52	0.0118	0.34	0.9970147	0	0	0	0
Commercial	52.4	0.0256	398	0.2365	66.5	0.476	0	0.763	0	0	0	0	0	0	10.5	100
Industrial	0	0	771	0.476	36.5	0.261	79.71	0.073	491	0.257	133.5	0.0029853	0	0	0	0
Institutional	505.3	0.247	368	0.7638	10	0.0716	160	0.147	480.14	0.251	0	0	0	0	0	0

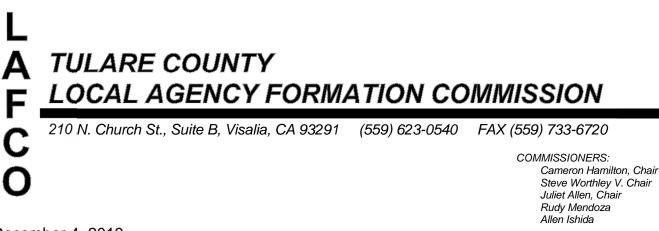












All LAFCO Commission Members and Alternates

Cynthia Echavarria, Staff Analyst

ALTERNATES: Mike Ennis Janet Hinesly Dennis Mederos

EXECUTIVE OFFICER: Ben Giuliani

December 4, 2013

SUBJECT: RVLP Effectiveness

Background

TO:

FROM:

Staff has been providing information to the Commission in relation to performance measures for conserving farmland in the San Joaquin Valley cited in AFT's report, "Saving Farmland, Growing Cities". To date staff has reviewed a number of strategies for conserving farmland which were included in Tulare County's recent general plan update; reviewed farmland conversion information developed from the California Department of Conservation's Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP); and provided information regarding state and federal land ownership over time with relation to the loss of available farmland. The Commission also requested information regarding the effectiveness of the Rural Valley Lands Plan (RVLP).

# **Discussion**

Tulare County has several measures that restrict the premature conversion of agricultural lands to non-agricultural uses including the Rural Valley Lands Plan (RVLP). The RVLP is just one of the many measures the County utilizes to prevent the premature conversion of Agricultural lands to non-agricultural lands.

The Rural Valley Lands Plan was adopted in 1975, and has had two amendments that strengthen its agricultural-protective provisions. The RVLP applies to about 773,500 acres of the valley portion of the County, outside County adopted Urban Development Boundaries (CACUDB), City Urban Area Boundaries (UAB) and other adopted community plans areas, and generally below the 600-foot elevation contour line along the foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range.

The purpose of the RVLP is to protect and maintain the agricultural viability of rural valley areas by creating requirements for exclusive agricultural zoning (containing minimum parcel sizes) suitable to sustain agriculture and implementing a policy that utilizes resource information to determine the suitability

of rural lands for non-agricultural uses. The goal of the RVLP is to "sustain the viability of Tulare County agriculture by restraining division and use of land which is harmful to continued agricultural use." The RVLP is implemented by using the exclusive agricultural zones and a point evaluation system.

The RVLP uses five exclusive agriculture (AE) zones. Each zone has different parcel size ranging from five to eighty acres. These zones are as follows: AE, AE-10, AE-20, AE-40, and AE 80. The number designation on each zone generally reflects the minimum acres of land needed to productively farm a certain crop at a commercial level.

In order to grant an exception for the use of the AE zone on properties that have minimal or no agricultural value, a parcel evaluation checklist is used to evaluate property suitability, based on a weighted point system. Points are awarded for various factors such as parcel size, available public services, and surrounding land uses to determine a property's suitability for nonagricultural zoning or uses. The Williamson Act agricultural preserve is a determining factor in the RVLP point system analysis. Parcels determined to be more suitable for non-agricultural uses may be zoned (discretionary review required) for urban/suburban uses. Parcels that do not meet the requirements for rezoning are not allowed to rezone and must remain agriculturally zoned.

While the RVLP provides a useful tool for prevention of premature conversion of agricultural lands to non-agricultural uses, there are some limitations:

- RVLP does not prevent the conversion of agricultural lands to homesite parcels -
- RVLP does not prevent the conversion to smaller minimum parcel size agricultural zones The conversion to a smaller agricultural zone is also not restricted for parcels under contract. This will potentially allow larger parcels to be subdivided to parcels as small as 10 acres.

1998-2000			2000-2002		2002	2-2004	2004-2006	
	Acres Converted	% of Converted Important Farmland						
Important Farmland to Urban and Built-Up Land	770	7%	3,020	14%	1,460	14%	1,140	7%
Important Farmland to Other Land	480	4%	6,460	30%	2,410	23%	4,830	31%
Important Farmland to Farmland of Local Importance and Grazing Land	9,660	88%	11,720	55%	6,520	63%	9,520	61%
Total	10,910		21,200		10,390		15,490	

# Table 1 IMPORTANT FARMLAND<sup>1</sup> CONVERSION

1 Important Farmland includes Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, and Unique Farmland.

2 These statistics show the amount of important farmland that was converted to a different important farmland type. For example, Prime

Farmland that becomes Farmland of Statewide Importance.

The conversion of important farmlands is the result of a number of activities. Table 1 identifies these types of

activities and provides acreage amounts of farmland converted by two-year period. As shown in the table, only 1,140 acres of important farmlands were converted into urban uses during the most recently reported period. Since 1998, the conversion of important farmlands to urban uses has fluctuated from 7 to 14% of all important farmland conversions to other uses. These changes to urban lands have typically occurred around established cities, communities, and hamlets.

As indicated by the table, the majority of important farmland conversions involves the downgrading of classified lands (for example: the conversion of irrigated farming to non-irrigated farming or grazing, prolonged fallow land, expansion of existing livestock facilities, or developing new livestock facilities). Other contributors that have resulted in the increase or decrease in farmland acreages consist of new soil mapping data available in 2000, improvements to digital imagery, new or expanded agricultural related uses (e.g., packing facilities, agricultural staging areas, etc.), expanded conservation areas, and new rural residential and commercial land uses. While the conversion of lands classified as "Grazing Lands", "Other Lands", and "Urban and Built-Up Lands" to the important farmland categories do occur, these conversions generally constitute a much smaller percentage of the overall conversion of important farmlands.

Table 2 and 3 show the zoning designations used in the RVLP. The tables also show total acreage in the RVLP area for base years 2004 and 2008 to show a comparison between the two years. The majority of the land located in this region is dedicated to agricultural uses. The majority of land in the RVLP area is zoned AE-40 and AE-20. The RVLP area contains non-designated land types, such as roads and waterways.

Zone 1	Acres
Agricultural (A-1)	1,705
Exclusive Agriculture (AE)	3,020
Exclusive Agriculture (AE-10)	24,412
Exclusive Agriculture (AE-20)	198,998
Exclusive Agriculture (AE-40)	493,668
Exclusive Agriculture (AE-80)	39,497
Foothill Agriculture (AF)	5,563
Neighborhood Comm. (C-1)	15
General Comm. (C-2)	58
Service Comm. (C-3)	48
Light Manufacturing (M-1)	495
Heavy Manufacturing (M-2)	109
Recreation (O)	70
Prof. Admn. Office (P-O)	4
Single Family Res.(R-1)	137
Two-family Res. (R-2)	3
Multiple Family Res. (R-3)	10
Rural Res. (R-A)	2,080
Subtotal	769,892
Other/Non-zoned2	3,607
Total	773,499

 Table 2: Rural Valley Lands Plan Land Use Designations, Tulare County, 2004

All overlay zones (e.g., F, SC, M) are deferred to the base zone with which they are combined.
 Includes lands zoned for floodways and other non-zoned areas such as right-of- ways and bodie

Includes lands zoned for floodways and other non-zoned areas such as right-of- ways and bodies of water. Source: Rural Valley Lands Plan, 1975; Tulare County GIS, 2003; Tulare County

Assessors Database, 2003; Mintier & Associates, 2004.

Zone 1	Acres
Agricultural (A-1)	1,640
Exclusive Agriculture (AE)	3,090
Exclusive Agriculture (AE-10)	26,080
Exclusive Agriculture (AE-20)	196,630
Exclusive Agriculture (AE-40)	495,180
Exclusive Agriculture (AE-80)	39,610
Foothill Agriculture (AF)	1,800
Neighborhood Comm. (C-1)	20
General Commercial (C-2)	50
Service Commercial (C-3)	50
Light Manufacturing (M-1)	400
Heavy Manufacturing (M-2)	110
Recreation (O)	170
Prof. Admn. Office (P-O)	4
Single Family Residential (R-1)	120
Two-family Residential (R-2)	4
Multiple Family Residential (R-3)	10
Rural Residential (R-A)	2,000
Subtotal	766,968
Other/Non-zoned <sup>2</sup>	2,140
Total	769,108

Table 3. Rural Valley Lands Plan Zoning Designations, Tulare County 2008

1 All overlay zones (e.g., F, SC, M) are deferred to the base zone with which they are combined.

2 Includes lands zoned for floodways and other non-zoned areas such as right-of-ways and bodies of water.

Source: Rural Valley Lands Plan, 1975; Tulare County Assessor's Database, 2008a.

As we have discussed, a primary impact to County agricultural lands is the loss of productive agricultural lands due to the conversion of important farmlands to other uses. Future growth resulting from implementation of the County's General Plan would result in both the direct and indirect conversion of additional important farmlands to urban and other non-farming uses. In keeping with the primary objectives of the County of Tulare General Plan 2030 Update, the majority of impacts to important farmlands will occur within the future growth areas (i.e., CACUDBs, HDBs and CACUABs) of the County Table 4.

Full build-out of the RVLP unincorporated community areas would convert up to 59,435 acres of important farmlands within this RVLP plan area of the County. Prime farmlands would account for an estimated 42,645 acres or a majority of the total number of converted acres within the Rural Valley Lands Plan Area. Land within the unincorporated community UDB is assumed appropriate for development and is not subject to the Rural Valley Lands Plan. But the RVLP can be used as a guide when evaluating application for permits.

The County's application of a checklist to guide development in a "CACUDB" calls for the County to work with individual cities using the Rural Valley Lands Plan to evaluate applications for special use permits, variances, or land divisions within CACUDBs to address impacts on regional issues (i.e., transportation infrastructure, availability of water, etc.).

As we have discussed, a primary impact to County agricultural lands is the loss of productive agricultural lands due to the conversion of important farmlands to other uses. Future growth resulting from implementation of the County's general plan would result in both the direct and indirect conversion of additional important farmlands to urban and other non-farming uses. In keeping with the primary objectives of the General Plan 2030 Update, the majority of impacts to important farmlands will occur within the future growth areas (i.e., CACUDBs, HDBs and CACUABs) of the County (Table 4). Given a variety of factors (including topography, ground slope, and soil conditions), a majority of the agricultural lands classified as important farmlands (and therefore the impacts) are located in the Rural Valley Lands Plan Area.

	AREA			
Urban Boundary Area	Prime Farmland	Farmland of Statewide Importance	Unique Farmland	Total
Urban Development Boundary (CACUDB)				
Alpaugh	0	20	0	20
Cutler-Orosi	460	780	100	1,340
Delano	170	0	0	170
Ducor	10	190	0	200
Earlimart	540	50	0	590
East Orosi	0	90	0	90
East Porterville	40	30	0	70
Goshen	710	120	0	830
Ivanhoe	60	270	0	330
Kingsburg	5	210	0	215
Lemon Cove	220	200	10	430
London	110	20	0	130
Patterson Tract	150	0	0	150
Pixley	1,230	0	0	1,230
Plainview	20	40	20	80
Poplar-Cotton Center	490	20	0	510
Richgrove	60	140	0	200
Strathmore	0	340	0	340
Terra Bella	60	650	0	710
Tipton	270	0	0	270
Traver	0	450	0	450
Woodville	270	0	0	270
CACUDB Total	4,875	3,620	130	8,625
Hamlet (HDB)				
Allensworth	0	180	0	180
Delft Colony	10	30	0	40
East Tulare Villa	0	0	0	0
Lindcove	0	190	0	190
Monson	90	60	0	150
Seville	10	0	0	10
Teviston	400	0	0	400
Tonyville	0	0	0	0
Waukena	80	0	0	80
West Goshen	30	110	0	140
Yettem	0	10	0	10
HDB Total	620	580	0	1,200

#### Table 4: SUMMARY OF IMPACTS TO IMPORTANT FARMLAND WITHIN THE RURAL VALLEY LANDS PLAN AREA

City Urban Area Boundary (CACUAB)				
Dinuba	2,210	1,060	0	3,270
Exeter	1,920	530	0	2,450
Farmersville	880	0	0	880
Lindsay	1,810	3,420	40	5,270
Porterville	2,770	3,760	760	7,290
Tulare	6,620	130	10	6,760
Visalia	20,370	970	80	21,420
Woodlake	570	1,490	210	2,270
CACUAB Total	37,150	11,360	1,100	49,610
TOTAL	42,645	15,560	1,230	59,435

Tulare County General Plan 2030 Update

#### Conclusion

This report is part of a series of reports providing an overview of the policies and procedures used by the County to prevent the conversion of prime farm land to other non-agricultural uses, look at the effectiveness of the policies and procedures in preserving agricultural land and maximizing production. Staff will return at a later date with additional historical data on the effectives of the RVLP.

# News from the Board of Directors

#### Callarco Callarco Callarco Callarco Callarco Callarco Callarco Callarco Callarco

# CALAFCO WELCOMES TEHAMA LAFCO TO THE ASSOCIATION

We are proud to welcome Tehama LAFCo as a member of the Association. Look for a full article on Tehama LAFCo in the next edition of *The Sphere*.

#### 2014 Annual Conference Update

At their November 8 meeting, the CALAFCO Board decided to move the conference to the <u>new dates of October 15 – 17</u> so as not to conflict with the California Special Districts Association (CSDA) annual conference, which is scheduled for the same dates as the September dates. We are still at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Ontario with our host San Bernardino LAFCo. We are looking forward to a great conference with lots of things to do and see in Ontario. More information about the conference will be available soon. For now, mark your calendars for OCTOBER 15 – 17, 2014!

#### 2014 Staff Workshop

The 2014 Staff Workshop is scheduled for *April 23 – 25, 2014* at the DoubleTree by Hilton in the Berkeley Marina. Our host for the workshop is Alameda and the Bay area LAFCos. The Host and Program Committees have begun their planning and details will be made available soon.

#### **CALAFCO Board 2014 Committees**

The CALAFCO Board appointed members to the 2014 standing committees are as follows:

Legislative Committee Gay Jones William Kirby John Leopold Mike McGill Eugene Montanez Josh Susman Robert Bergman (a) James Curatalo (a) Mary Jane Griego (a) Juliana Inman (a) Ted Novelli (a)

2014 Annual Conference James Curatalo (Chair) Stephen Tomanelli

# CALAFCO U Courses for 2014

CALAFCO staff is in the process of finalizing the schedule of sessions for the first half of 2014 with topics that include the Protest Process, in January in southern California; LAFCo Best Practices (content taken from the Projects of the Year nominations) in early spring in Sacramento, and another in June on LAFCo lawsuits and how to prepare for and deal with them successfully.

#### LAFCo Symposium – December 9, 2013

UC Davis Extension and CALAFCO are co-sponsoring a one day symposium in Sacramento to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> birthday of LAFCo. Mark your calendars to join us for lively panel discussions on hot issues facing LAFCos today, and hear our special keynote

speaker the Honorable Robert Hertzberg.

November 2013

Details and registration information are available on the CALAFCO website.

#### 2013 Annual Conference in Squaw Valley a Success

328 commissioners, staff, associate members and guest speakers attended the annual conference held in Squaw Valley this past August.



There was good representation of LAFCos, with 48 of the 57 member LAFCOs represented. Evaluation results showed a positive overall rating of 5.1 on a 6.0 scale. Participants mentioned the quality of the session topics, the location and venue, the banquet dinner and program, and the value of networking opportunities as some of the highlights.

Financially the conference met the goals established by the Board. Our thanks to Placer, Nevada and El Dorado LAFCos for hosting, Josh Susman (Nevada LAFCo) as Committee Chair, and Sam Martinez (San Bernardino LAFCo) as Program Chair.

#### **CALAFCO Board Actions**

During their regular meeting on November 8, the Board addressed several administrative issues including:

- The quarterly financial reports were reviewed and the budget is on track for the year. All financial reports are located on the website.
- Approved recommended LAFCo staff appointments to the 2014 Legislative Committee.
- Directed the newly formed Recruitment and Nominations Committee to review the current absentee ballot voting policy and potential use of absentee ballots in the case of a run-off election, and report to the Board in February on any recommendations.
- Approved the contract renewal for Pamela Miller as the Association's Executive Director.
- Approved the contract renewal for Jeni Tickler as the Association's Administrator.

#### **Legislative Activities**

The 2013 legislative year saw 2,264 bills introduced, of which 805 were chaptered and 96 were vetoed. CALAFCO's bills included AB 1427 (Omnibus) and AB 743 (Logue), both of which were signed into law. The other CALAFCO bill, AB 453 (Mullin) died in Senate Appropriations. A full report on the 2013 legislative year is located on the CALAFCO website.

The legislature will reconvene on January 7, 2014. CALAFCO's Legislative Committee is scheduled to meet via conference call on November 25<sup>th</sup>, and in person on December 6<sup>th</sup>. During their November 8<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Board gave consensus for the Legislative Committee to consider legislation that would change the MSR/SOI cycle from every 5 years to every 8 years, to coincide with the housing element update cycle. The Board also gave direction to the Legislative Committee to conduct outreach to freshman legislators who have been a LAFCo Commissioner as a way to build relations and partner with them on potential future LAFCo legislation.



Nominations Committee

Julie Allen

Mary Jane Griego

Elliot Mulberg (Chair)

Awards Committee

Stephen Tomanelli

Mary Jane Griego (Chair)

Juliana Inman

Larry Duncan

John Leopold

Josh Susman

Ted Novelli

Roger Welt

Mike Kelley



# **2014 Events Calendar**

# JANUARY

15-17	California Association of Sanitation Agencies Conference (Indian Wells)
24	CALAFCO Legislative Committee (Sacramento)

#### **FEBRUARY**

7	CALAFCO Board of Directors Meeting (Irvine)
28	<b>CALAFCO Legislative Committee</b> (Oakland)

# MARCH

5	Association of CA Water Agencies Legislative Symposium (Sacramento)
14-16	Local Government Commission Ahwahnee Conference (Yosemite)
28	CALAFCO Legislative Committee (Ontario)
APRIL	
10-12	Fire District Association Annual Meeting (Napa)
23	League of Cities Legislative Day

(Sacramento)

23-25 CALAFCO Staff Workshop (Berkeley)

28-29 California Assn. of Sanitation Agencies Legislative Policy Forum (Sacramento)

#### MAY

2	<b>CALAFCO Board of Directors Meeting</b> (Northern Region)
6-9	Association of California Water Agencies Conference (Monterey)
9	CALAFCO Legislative Committee (Sacramento)
14-15	California State Assn. of Counties Legislative Conference (Sacramento)
20-21	California Special Districts Assn. Legislative Days (Sacramento)

### JUNE

# JULY

- 11 CALAFCO Board of Directors Meeting (Sacramento)
- 25 CALAFCO Legislative Committee (Conference call)

# AUGUST

20-23 California Association of Sanitation Agencies Annual Conference (Monterey)

#### **SEPTEMBER**

- 3-5 League of California Cities Annual Conference (Los Angeles)
- 17-19 CALAFCO Annual Conference (Ontario)
- 19 CALAFCO Board of Directors Meeting (Ontario)
- 24-26 Regional Council of Rural Counties Annual Conference (Squaw Valley)
- 16-19 California Special Districts Assn. Annual Conference (Monterey)

# OCTOBER

# NOVEMBER

- 7 CALAFCO Board of Directors Meeting (Sacramento)
- 18-21 California State Assn. of Counties Annual Meeting (Anaheim)

#### DECEMBER

2-5 Association of California Water Agencies Conference (San Diego)