

MARIN LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

RESOLUTION NO 08-11

**ADOPTION OF DETERMINATIONS FOR THE  
MARIN RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT SERVICE REVIEW**

**WHEREAS**, Section 56430 of the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 requires that Local Agency Formation Commissions (LAFCOs) conduct service reviews prior to, or in conjunction with, consideration of actions to establish a Sphere of Influence (SOI) as defined in Section 56076, and in accordance with Section 56425 or 56426.5, or update an SOI pursuant to Section 56425; and

**WHEREAS**, as part of such reviews, LAFCOs must compile and evaluate service-related information and make written determinations regarding infrastructure needs or deficiencies, growth and population projections for the affected area, financing constraints and opportunities for shared facilities, government structure options, including advantages and disadvantages of consolidation or reorganization of service providers, evaluation of management efficiencies, and local accountability and governance; and

**WHEREAS**, Marin Local Agency Formation Commission initiated a service review of local government services in the Marin Resource Conservation District service area as part of their overall program to complete all sphere of influence and service reviews by January 1, 2008; and

**WHEREAS**, Marin LAFCO consulted with affected and interested agencies, interested parties; and

**WHEREAS**, Marin LAFCO gathered and compiled the information necessary to conduct the required review and independently evaluated such information; and

**WHEREAS**, Marin LAFCO issued a Draft Service Review on September 5, 2008 and provided for public review of said document; and

**WHEREAS**, Marin LAFCO considered the data, recommendations and determinations contained in the *Marin Resource Conservation District Service Review and Sphere of Influence Update* report at noticed public hearings on September 11, 2008, November 13, 2008 and March 12, 2009 and received all oral testimony and evidence, which were made, presented or filed, and all persons present were given the

opportunity to hear and be heard in respect to any matter relating to the review, its data, recommendations and determinations; and

~~WHEREAS, the Marin Resource Conservation District Service Review~~ collects and analyzes information on local government services in order to provide information to the public and to assist Marin LAFCO in its periodic review of adopted spheres of influence.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Marin Local Agency Formation Commission DOES HEREBY RESOLVE, DETERMINE AND ORDER, based upon the information contained in the Executive Officer's report, correspondence from affected agencies and information received during the public hearings, as follows:

Section 1. Pursuant to powers provided in Section 56430 of the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000, the Marin Local Agency Formation Commission adopts written determinations as set forth in Exhibit A.

Section 2. Pursuant to Section 15306 of the State CEQA Guidelines, the Commission finds that this service review is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act. That exemption applies to basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Marin Local Agency Formation Commission on this 12th day of March, 2009, by the following vote:

AYES: Commissioners Arnold, Heller, Rodoni, Slavitz

NOES: Commissioner Blanchfield

ABSENT: Commissioners Adams, McGlashan



JEFFRY BLANCHFIELD, Chairperson

ATTEST:

  
PETER V. BANNING, Executive Officer

## EXHIBIT A

### Statement of Written Determinations Marin Resource Conservation District Service Review

1. **Regarding government structure options, including advantages and disadvantages of consolidation or reorganization of service providers, the Commission determines:**

The unique role and expansive boundaries of Marin Resource Conservation District (MRCD) indicate that no additional government structure alternatives other than consolidation with another resource conservation district in Sonoma County. Since the purpose of resource conservation districts is to connect local conditions and land characteristics to federal and state funding opportunities, enlargement of MRCD through such a consolidation would be likely to diminish rather than improve the focus of MRCD on agricultural conditions in west Marin County.

2. **Regarding infrastructure needs or deficiencies, the Commission determines:**

The MRCD operates in an office in the community of Point Reyes Station. The MRCD owns specialized farm implements, a no-till drill and soil aerator which are rented out to the farmers and ranchers who farm watersheds in the district or have parcels which drain into Marin County watersheds. The MRCD may purchase additional farm equipment and expand staff/office equipment in the future. The District has not identified any specific equipment needs for the implementation of its current programs.

3. **Regarding growth and population projections for the affected area, the Commission determines:**

Marin County encompasses 333,000 acres and had an estimated population of 247,289 people in 2000. An estimated 178,554 people, or 72% of the population, live in the incorporated cities. The remaining 28% of residents, or 68,735 people, live in unincorporated communities and rural areas. The western portion of the county, the area served by the MRCD, has a number of established communities, including Inverness, Bolinas, Stinson Beach, Pt. Reyes Station, and Tomales.

Services provided by MRCD are generally applied to land and water resources rather than to population within its boundaries.

LAFCO actions will not significantly affect population growth or service availability in the study area.

**4. Regarding financing constraints and opportunities, the Commission determines:**

The MRCD receives a small amount of annual funding from a County General Fund appropriation by the Marin County Board of Supervisors. MRCD's other funding comes from competitively sought government grants from local, state, and federal agencies. The District also receives funds from local foundations and other private sources.

Grant funding, which the district actively pursues, offers the greatest opportunity for the MRCD to increase its revenue. Such funding strengthens the District's ability to leverage its resources and to provide meaningful programs that directly relate to resource conservation issues.

The MRCD has a Strategic Long Range Plan that includes goals, watershed issues, and an action plan for implementation over an eight year period (2000-2008).

**5. Regarding cost avoidance opportunities, the Commission determines:**

MRCD maintains a strong collaborative relationship with numerous local, state and federal agencies that are working toward a common goal of resource conservation within Marin County. By collectively pooling the distinctive resources and staff expertise of each agency, all agencies are able to accomplish more than they would working solely as autonomous entities.

MRCD works closely with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service which provides technical services and construction funding through Farm Bill programs. The University of California Cooperative Extension Service provides outreach/educational services.

**6. Regarding opportunities for rate restructuring, the Commission determines:**

MRCD does not have an established fee schedule. It provides services and informational materials to the public at no charge. The District charges for the use of its farm equipment and will soon consider a fee-for-service program.

**7. Regarding opportunities for shared facilities, the Commission determines:**

There are no obvious opportunities for shared facilities in the operations of the MRCD with other districts or agencies due to its unique role and lack of proximity to similar special districts.

**8. Regarding evaluation of management efficiencies, the Commission determines:**

The district has the staff resources and management capability to provide conservation services to the study area in both the short and long term given the contributions of state and federal conservation grant programs.

**9. Regarding local accountability and governance, the Commission determines:**

Board meetings are conducted on the second Wednesday of each month at the Marin County Farm Bureau Conference Room and are open to the public. MRCD provides an annual summary of past and projected projects for each fiscal year in accordance to their long-term plan.

The district maintains a website that is currently under construction. The District's website has the potential of being a resource for a broad range of service information and publications.