

Staff Report

for the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors, March 8, 2017

TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Greg Jones, Assistant General Manager
DATE: March 1, 2017
SUBJECT: Sphere of Influence (SOI) Update

ADMINISTRATION

RECOMMENDATION: Review and discuss draft Sphere of Influence (SOI), draft maps, and projected timeline.

BACKGROUND:

The Nevada Irrigation District (NID or District) proposes to update its Sphere of Influence (SOI or sphere), which serves as the District's probable 20-year boundary and service area. The primary purpose of the update is to bring the NID sphere into conformance with California law and with policy requirements of the Nevada County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo).

The Cortese/Knox/Hertzberg Act requires LAFCo to adopt a Sphere of Influence (defined as a "plan for the probable physical boundary and service area of an agency, as determined by the LAFCo Commission") for each city and district.

This sphere amendment and update includes three main components:

1. The sphere would include a program annexation of service islands currently receiving treated water within Nevada and Placer Counties and surrounded by the NID boundary. Program annexations of these islands would occur within the near-term horizon.
2. NID plans to expand its 2007 perimeter boundary to add three areas that adjoin the District: 5,122 acres of land south of Cascade Shores, 700 acres along Dog Bar Road, and 1,550 acres in the North-West pocket of Nevada County.

3. NID must obtain approval from the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to expand its beneficial use area in order to revise the NID boundaries and annex the 5,122 acres of land south of Cascade Shores. The District is not applying for new water rights. However, the District must make application to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to adjust the service area/place of use for its existing water rights.

Changes to or adoption of a Sphere of Influence would not change land use intensity or density standards, modify or establish zoning or vested rights, nor will it commit or permit development to occur in an area. Neither NID nor LAFCo exercises land use authority. Additionally, adoption or modification of a Sphere of Influence does not commit an agency to a course of action regarding the installation of infrastructure improvements or any other physical improvements.

The purpose of this informational update is to inform the Board of Directors on the purpose, status and timeline of this SOI.

BUDGETARY IMPACT: None

Attachments (1):

- Draft Maps via PPT