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San Diego Local Agency Formation Commission

Website: www.sdlafco.org

Chairman

October 25, 2006

Andrew L. Vanderlaan
Public Member**Vice Chairman**Bill Horn
County Board of
Supervisors

TO: Diane Quinones, CAO Staff Officer (A6)

FROM: Executive Officer (A216)

SUBJECT: Old Barona Road Area & Water Supply – Bowling

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Michael D. Ott

Counsel

William D. Smith

This memorandum is in response to your October 13, 2006 referral regarding the extension of water service to the Old Barona Road area. The San Diego LAFCO is aware that this area of San Diego County has been experiencing significant reductions in groundwater supplies in recent years. Some of the affected residents within the Old Barona community have been exploring potential options with nearby water agencies; unfortunately, no tangible solution has been identified or implemented. While the closest retail water agency is the Lakeside Water District (WD), the District has indicated that it is unable to cost-effectively extend service due to the lack of available infrastructure. Accordingly, the Lakeside WD did not request that the area be placed within its recently updated sphere of influence. As you may know, a sphere of influence depicts areas that should eventually be annexed to local agencies. Factors such as the availability and capacity of infrastructure are taken into consideration when adopting sphere boundaries.

While the Old Barona community was not placed within the Lakeside WD's sphere of influence, the community did receive a "special study area" designation by LAFCO. This designation will serve as the impetus for affected agencies to meet with Old Barona Road residents and reevaluate overall service and infrastructure capabilities. The president of the Old Barona Road Association has suggested that in lieu of dealing with existing agencies, a new water district should be formed. However, you should be aware that it is unlikely a new water district would have sufficient revenue sources or exhibit the necessary economies of scale to achieve financial feasibility. In addition, the water wholesalers that distribute water in San Diego County (San Diego County Water Authority and Metropolitan Water District of Southern California) generally discourage the formation of new water districts as a means of obtaining rights to imported water.

If you require any further information regarding the water supply issues facing the Old Barona Road community, please contact me.


MICHAEL D. OTT
Executive Officer

MDO:tjc

cc: Supervisor Dianne Jacob
Bob Cook, Lakeside Water District