



May 13, 2009

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General Public

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**JOYCE CROSTHWAITE**  
Executive Officer

**TO:** Local Agency Formation Commission

**FROM:** Executive Officer  
Assistant Executive Officer

**SUBJECT:** Sphere of Influence Update for the City of Los Alamitos (SOI 09-02) and Reconfirmation of the City of Los Alamitos Municipal Services Review (MSR 09-01)

### **BACKGROUND**

The Municipal Services Review (MSR) for the City of Los Alamitos was completed in May 2005 as part of a larger MSR which also included the City of Seal Beach, the Rossmoor Community Services District, the Rossmoor -Los Alamitos Area Sewer District, and the Sunset Beach Sanitary District. In July 2006, following the completion of the MSR, the Commission updated the City of Los Alamitos sphere of influence to include the unincorporated community of Rossmoor (*see Exhibit A*). Prior to July 2006, Rossmoor, a built-out community of almost 11,000 residents, was not located within any city's sphere of influence.

In May 2008, the Commission approved the proposed incorporation of Rossmoor. At the Commission's August 2008 Strategic Planning Session, the Commission requested that the City of Los Alamitos sphere of influence be brought back for Commission consideration in 2009 given the pending incorporation proposal. In November 2008, registered voters within the Rossmoor community defeated the incorporation proposal and the area remains unincorporated today. Rossmoor remains in the City of Los Alamitos sphere of influence.

### **ANALYSIS**

The City of Los Alamitos is bordered to the south by the City of Seal Beach, to the north by the City of Cypress, and to the east by the Cities of Garden Grove and Cypress. The City of Los Alamitos surrounds the unincorporated community of Rossmoor on three sides. Incorporated in 1960, the City is largely built-out and has a population of approximately 12,340 residents. The City is expected to grow to 13,490 by the year 2020.

The City of Los Alamitos Sphere of Influence was initially adopted in 1974 as coterminous with existing City boundaries. In subsequent sphere reviews in 1981 and 1989, LAFCO again reaffirmed a coterminous sphere for the City. As stated previously in this report, in July 2006, the Commission approved the current sphere for the City of Los Alamitos which includes the 1.57 square mile

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RE: City of Los Alamitos MSR/SOI Reconfirmation

community of Rossmoor. The City virtually surrounds the unincorporated community of Rossmoor on the north, east and west with primary access to Rossmoor through the City of Los Alamitos from either Seal Beach Boulevard/Los Alamitos Boulevard or Katella Avenue. Both the City of Los Alamitos and Rossmoor share water and sewer providers and are located in the same school district.

The MSR for the City of Los Alamitos, completed in May 2005, did not identify any significant issues and does not warrant any further study at this time. A copy of the MSR determinations adopted by the Commission is included as **Exhibit B** to this report. Given the lack of MSR/SOI related issues for the City, staff is recommending that the Commission reconfirm both the MSR and current SOI for the City of Los Alamitos.

### CEQA

LAFCO is the lead agency under CEQA for the reconfirmation of municipal service reviews and related spheres of influence. Staff, in conjunction with legal counsel, reviewed the CEQA guidelines and recommends that the Commission consider the proposed actions exempt from CEQA under CEQA Guidelines §15262 (Feasibility and Planning Studies). A project involving only feasibility or planning studies for possible future actions which the agency, board or commission has not approved, adopted or funded does not require the preparation of an EIR or Negative Declaration. A copy of the Categorical Exemption is included as **Exhibit C** for your review.

### COMMENTS

A request for comments on the proposed City of Los Alamitos SOI/MSR reconfirmation was distributed by staff to all affected agencies on March 27, 2009. No comments were received.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff recommends that the Commission:

1. Adopt the attached Draft Resolution (**Attachment D**) reconfirming the current municipal service review and sphere of influence for the City of Los Alamitos.

Respectfully submitted,



JOYCE CROSTHWAITE



BOB ALDRICH

*May 13, 2009*

*RE: City of Los Alamitos MSR/SOI Reconfirmation*

**Attachments:**

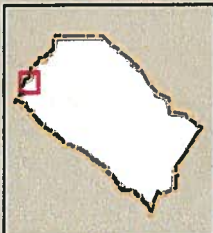
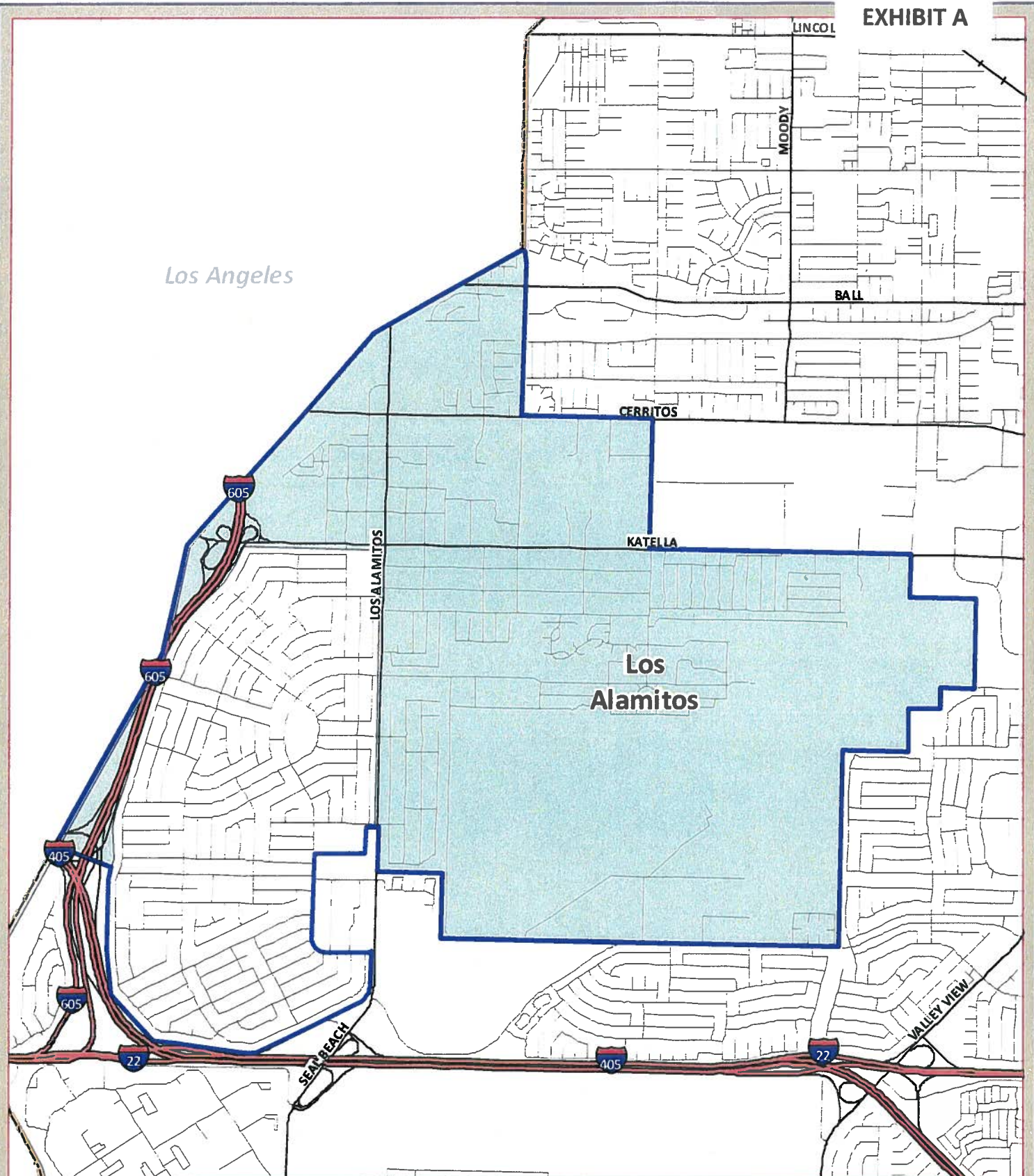
**Exhibit A: Current Los Alamitos SOI Map**

**Exhibit B: City of Los Alamitos 2005 MSR Determinations**

**Exhibit C: Categorical Exemption**

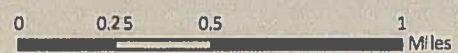
**Exhibit D: Draft Resolution**

Los Angeles



### City of Los Alamitos Sphere of Influence Map

SOI Originally Adopted: 02/27/74  
Last Reviewed: 01/10/07



Orange County  
LAFCO  
October 1, 2008

-  Los Alamitos Sphere
-  Los Alamitos City
-  Orange County Boundary





# DETERMINATIONS

<b>CITY OF LOS ALAMITOS</b> <b>Determinations</b>	
<b><i>Growth and Population Projections</i></b>	The City of Los Alamitos is nearly 100% built out. The current population is 12,340 and projected to be 13,490 by year 2020. The extension of infrastructure and services is expected to be minimal. However, future reuse of the 1,400-acre US Joint Forces Training Center, which was not addressed in the service review report, would have a significant impact on the agency.
<b><i>Infrastructure Needs or Deficiencies</i></b>	Water is provided to the City by Southern California Water Company. Sewer service is provided by the Rossmoor/Los Alamitos Sewer District. The City is 17 acres short of meeting its General Plan goal of 2.5 acres per 1,000 residents. No significant infrastructure issues were noted.
<b><i>Financing Constraints and Opportunities</i></b>	Total revenues and expenses for the past three fiscal years remained constant. However, the City may be challenged by increased service costs to maintain existing level of City services in the future.
<b><i>Opportunities for Cost Avoidance and Shared Facilities, &amp; Management Efficiencies</i></b>	The City contracts with private companies for various services and is a member of a joint powers authority (WESTCOM) for police dispatch services. The City may benefit from exploring shared services and/or joint use of facilities for police, animal control, sewer and park and recreation services.
<b><i>Opportunities for Rate Restructuring</i></b>	No significant issues regarding rate restructuring were noted.
<b><i>Government Structure Options</i></b>	City should explore formation of a Joint Powers Authorities (JPAs) with the City of Seal Beach, special districts and the County of Orange to achieve cost efficiencies and savings. A JPA could provide landscape maintenance, recreation programs, animal control, road and drainage maintenance and law enforcement services.
<b><i>Local Accountability and Governance</i></b>	No significant issues regarding local accountability were noted.



**NOTICE OF EXEMPTION**

**EXHIBIT C**

TO: <input type="checkbox"/> Clerk of the Board of Supervisors or <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County Clerk County of: Orange		FROM:    Orange County Local Agency Formation Commission  12 Civic Center Plaza, Room 235  Santa Ana, CA 92701
1.	Project Title:	Sphere of Influence Update for the City of Los Alamitos (SOI 09-02) and Reconfirmation of the City of Los Alamitos Municipal Services Review (MSR 09-01)
2.	Project Location – Identify street address and cross streets or attach a map showing project site (preferably a USGS 15' or 7 1/2' topographical map identified by quadrangle name):	The City of Los Alamitos is bordered to the south by the City of Seal Beach, to the north by the City of Cypress, and to the east by the Cities of Garden Grove and Cypress.
3.	(a) Project Location – City:	City of Los Alamitos
	(b) Project Location – County:	Orange
4.	LAFCO Action on Project:	Reconfirm current Sphere of Influence and Municipal Service Review (MSR) for the City of Los Alamitos.
5.	Description of nature, purpose, and beneficiaries of Project:	In accordance with Government Code §56430, LAFCO is required to conduct regional studies on future growth and establish spheres of influence for each public agency in Orange County. Such studies were completed for the City of Los Alamitos within the previous four years; data and assumptions remain current, and reconfirmation of the MSR and SOI for this agency is appropriate. LAFCO will conduct a public hearing for the reconfirmation of the MSR and SOI for this agency on May 13, 2009, during which time there will be an opportunity for public comments.
6.	Name & Address of Public Agency approving project:	Orange County Local Agency Formation Commission 12 Civic Center Plaza, Room 235 Santa Ana, CA 92701
7.	Name & Address of Person or Agency carrying out project:	Orange County Local Agency Formation Commission 12 Civic Center Plaza, Room 235 Santa Ana, CA 92701 ATTN: Bob Aldrich, Assistant Executive Officer
8.	Exempt status: (check one)	
	(a) <input type="checkbox"/> Ministerial project.	
	(b) <input type="checkbox"/> Not a project.	
	(c) <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Project.	
	(d) <input type="checkbox"/> Categorical Exemption. State type and class number:	
	(e) <input type="checkbox"/> Declared Emergency.	
	(f) <input type="checkbox"/> Statutory Exemption. State Code section number:	
	(g) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other. Explanation:	Feasibility or Planning Study
9.	Reason why project was exempt:	Staff recommends that the Commission consider the City of Los Alamitos Municipal Service Review determinations and Sphere of Influence Update as exempt from CEQA

	under CEQA Guidelines Section 15626: Feasibility and Planning Studies. A project involving only feasibility or planning studies for possible future actions which the agency, board or commission has not approved, adopted or funded does not require the preparation of an EIR or Negative Declaration.
10. Contact Person:	Bob Aldrich, Assistant Executive Officer
Telephone:	(714) 834-2556
11. Attach Preliminary Exemption Assessment (Form "A") before filing.	

Date Received for Filing: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature (LAFCO Representative)

(Clerk Stamp Here)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

**RESOLUTION OF THE LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION  
OF ORANGE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA  
RECONFIRMING THE MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW AND THE  
SPHERE OF INFLUENCE FOR THE CITY OF LOS ALAMITOS**

**May 13, 2009**

On motion of Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_, duly seconded and carried, the following resolution was adopted:

WHEREAS, California Government Code Section 56425 requires that a Local Agency Formation Commission (“LAFCO”) adopt Spheres of Influence for all agencies in its jurisdiction and to update those spheres every five years; and

WHEREAS, the Sphere of Influence is the primary planning tool for LAFCO and defines the probable physical boundaries and service area of a local agency as determined by LAFCO; and

WHEREAS, proceedings for adoption, update and amendment of a Sphere of Influence are governed by the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act, Section 56000 et seq. of the Government Code; and

WHEREAS, California Government Code Section 56430 requires that in order to prepare and to update Spheres of Influence the Commission shall conduct Municipal Service Reviews prior to or in conjunction with action to update or adopt a sphere of influence; and

WHEREAS, the Orange County LAFCO staff has previously prepared a Municipal Service Review for the City of Los Alamitos, as an accompanying report to the Sphere of Influence update for the City of Los Alamitos, and has furnished a copy of this report to each person entitled to a copy; and

WHEREAS, the information and findings contained in the MSR and SOI updates for the City of Los Alamitos are generally current and do not raise any significant boundary or service-related issues; and



WHEREAS, copies of the MSR and SOI report, SOI map, and MSR statement of determinations for the City of Los Alamitos have been previously reviewed by the Commission and are available for public review in the LAFCO offices and on the LAFCO website; and

WHEREAS, the Executive Officer, pursuant to Government Code Section 56427, set May 13, 2009 as the hearing date on this MSR and SOI study proposal and gave the required notice of public hearing; and

WHEREAS, the Executive Officer, pursuant to Government Code Section 56428, has reviewed this proposal and prepared a report, including her recommendations thereon, and has furnished a copy of this report to each person entitled to a copy; and

WHEREAS, the proposal consists of the reconfirmation of the municipal service review and sphere of influence for the City of Los Alamitos; and

WHEREAS, this Commission called for and held a public hearing on the proposal on May 13, 2009, and at the hearing this Commission heard and received all oral and written protests, objections and evidence which were made, presented or filed, and all persons present were given an opportunity to hear and be heard with respect to this proposal and the report of the Executive Officer; and

WHEREAS, this Commission considered the factors determined by the Commission to be relevant to this proposal, including, but not limited to, factors specified in Government Code Section 56841; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act, the reconfirmation of existing spheres of influence was determined to be categorically exempt under the State CEQA Guidelines.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Local Agency Formation Commission of the County of Orange DOES HEREBY RESOLVE, DETERMINE AND ORDER as follows:

Section 1. Determinations:

The Executive Officer's staff report and recommendations for reconfirmation of the current MSR and sphere of influence for the City of Los Alamitos are hereby adopted.

**Section 2.** This review is assigned the following distinctive short-form designation:  
“MSR Reconfirmation and SOI Update for the City of Los Alamitos  
(MSR 09-01/SOI 09-02).

**Section 3.** The Executive Officer is hereby authorized and directed to mail copies of  
this resolution as provided in Section 56882 of the Government Code.

**AYES:**

**NOES:**

STATE OF CALIFORNIA )  
  ) SS.  
COUNTY OF ORANGE  )

I, **SUSAN WILSON**, Chair of the Local Agency Formation Commission of Orange  
County, California, hereby certify that the above and foregoing resolution was duly and regularly  
adopted by said Commission at a regular meeting thereof, held on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2008.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 13<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2008.

**SUSAN WILSON**  
Chair of the Orange County  
Local Agency Formation Commission

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Susan Wilson