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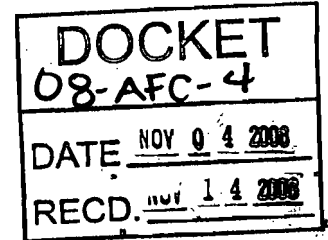
November 4, 2008

Vice Chairman

Bill Horn
County Board of
Supervisors

TO: Interested Agencies and Organizations

FROM: Michael D. Ott
Executive Officer



Members

Donna Frye
Councilmember
City of San Diego

SUBJECT: Approval for Activation of Latent Powers for Structural Fire Protection and EMS within an unincorporated area of CSA No. 135

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County Board of
Supervisors

Andrew J. Menshek
Padre Dam
Municipal Water District

Carl Hilliard
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South Bay Irrigation District

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On October 6, 2008, the San Diego Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) conditionally approved a County proposal to activate latent powers for structural fire protection and emergency medical services (EMS) within a limited portion of County Service Area (CSA) No. 135. This letter is intended to inform an expansive interest group about details of the LAFCO approval, which included: (1) establishing the area where the County will be responsible for structural fire protection and EMS; (2) imposing conditions of approval; (3) completing supplementary approvals; (4) initiating a subsequent jurisdictional boundary change project; and (5) resolving unincorporated service islands.

Alternate Members

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City of El Cajon

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County Board of
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Irrigation District

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City of San Diego

Executive Officer

Michael D. Ott

Counsel

William D. Smith

1. Activation of latent powers for structural fire protection and EMS is conditionally approved within a defined area:

- LAFCO conditionally approved the activation of latent powers for structural fire protection and EMS within a sub-area of the San Diego Regional Fire Authority (SDCRFA). The specific territory is identified on the attached map as "*Activation of Latent Powers Area*".
- The SDCRFA was created by the Board of Supervisors in June 2008 as a zone of CSA No.135 (Regional Communications). Activation of latent powers for structural fire protection and EMS within the SDCRFA will be proposed in incremental phases between 2008 and 2012. LAFCO's October 6 approval activated latent powers within the major portion—approximately 921,514 acres—of the initial phase; approximately 21,304 acres of the proposed phase were deferred to a special study (see 5 below). The approved latent powers area includes non-contiguous territory in De Luz and Otay Mesa.

2. Conditions for activation of latent powers:

- First-responder services within the latent powers area will be provided by six volunteer fire companies and four CAL-FIRE stations under contract to the County. Contracts with CAL-FIRE have been executed. A condition of activation of latent powers requires that contracts with volunteers to provide services on behalf of the County also be completed.
- The response capability of the 10 contract stations has not yet been documented by the County. It is not known whether contract stations will be able to provide reasonable first-responder service throughout the 921,000-acre latent powers area; therefore, a second condition of approval requires a survey of first-responder capability and automatic aid agreements or contracts for services with alternative providers.
- It is anticipated that these conditions will be met in the upcoming weeks and activation of latent powers will be effective before the end of 2008.

3. Actions supplementary to the activation of latent powers

- Administration of the Task Force on Fire Protection and EMS was transferred from LAFCO to the SDCRFA.
- A proposal involving 12 unincorporated parcels clustered into four islands and surrounded by the Alpine FPD (DA08-18) will continue to be processed as an annexation to the Alpine Fire Protection District.

4. Approval triggers municipal service review (MSR)

- LAFCO will conduct an MSR of the latent powers area within three years of the effective date of the activation. Issues that will be studied in the service review include growth projections in the latent powers area, adequacy of fire protection and EMS, financial ability of CSA No. 135 to provide services, governmental accountability, plus matters related to service delivery such as an evaluation of response times.

5. Resolving unincorporated service islands

- LAFCO staff was directed to assess the interest of cities and districts to resolve structural fire protection and EMS issues in unincorporated service islands through annexation or alternative plans. Approximately 21,000 acres of unincorporated territory that is adjacent to cities and fire protection agencies was excluded from the proposed activation of latent powers. This territory represents unincorporated service islands where structural fire protection and EMS services are not funded. There are also numerous smaller unincorporated service islands, which are either adjacent to, or completely within, city or district boundaries. All unincorporated service islands plus territory within the CSA No. 135 latent powers area, that is overlaid by the spheres of adjacent agencies, have been classified as *special study areas* that will be addressed by LAFCO (refer to attached map).

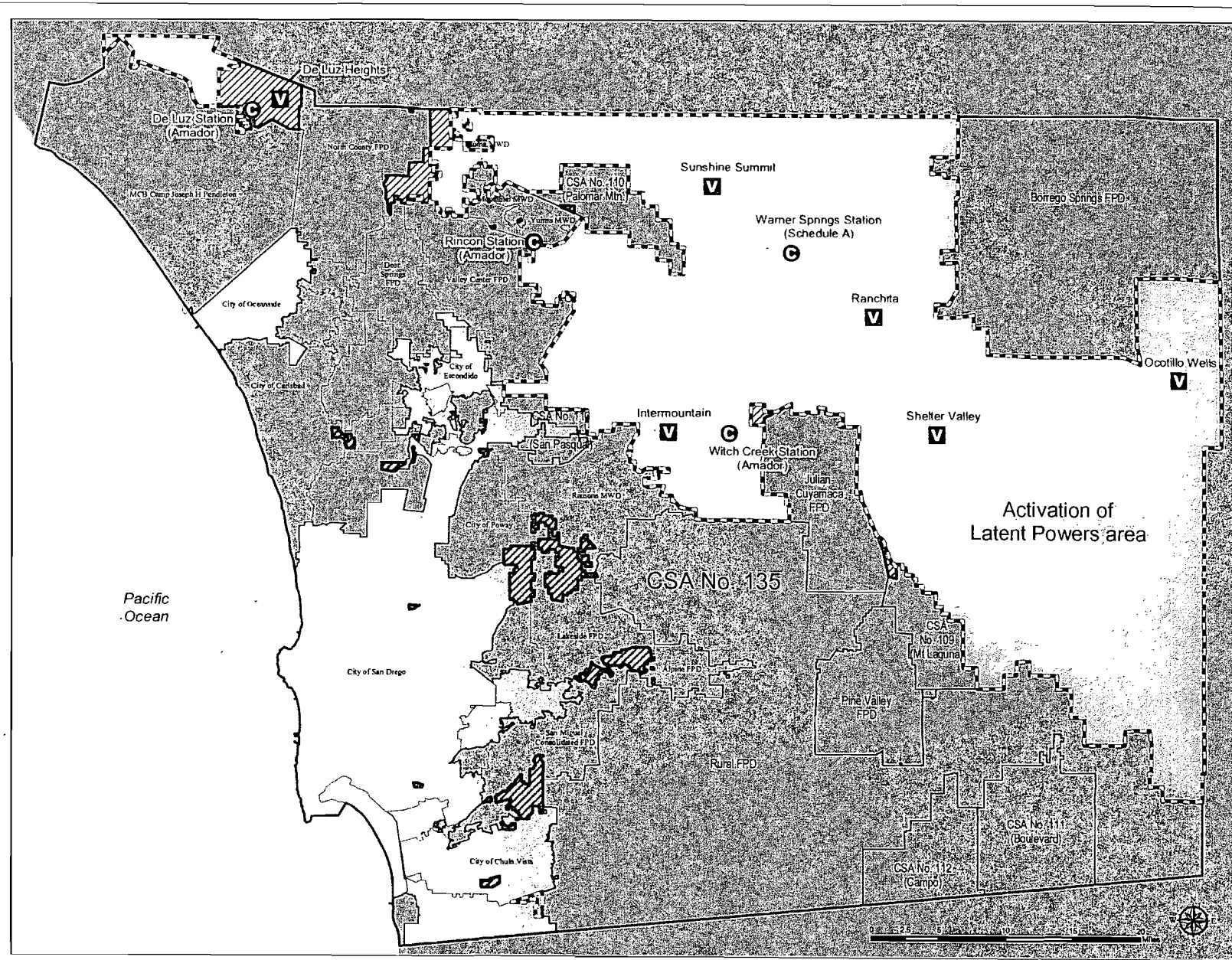
The approval of latent powers for fire protection and EMS within a significant portion of CSA No.135 constitutes a major accomplishment for both the San Diego LAFCO and County of San Diego. However, the challenges of improving fire protection and EMS for the residents of San Diego County within the new entity will require patience and cooperation. If you have any questions regarding this LAFCO project, please contact Shirley Anderson or John Traylor at 619/531-5400.



MICHAEL D. OTT
Executive Officer

MDO:SA:tjc

Attachment



CSA No. 135

Activation of Latent Powers for Structural Fire Protection & EMS within a service-specific area

Sphere of Influence & Special Study Areas

- CSA No. 135
- Activation of Latent Powers
- Structural Fire / EMS Sphere of Influence
- Structural Fire / EMS Special Study Areas
- Contract Fire Stations
- Volunteer Fire Company
- CAL FIRE

Approved October 6, 2008



SAN DIEGO **LAFCO**

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