



## AGENDA ITEM 7A

**MEETING:** November 18, 2020  
**TO:** Humboldt LAFCo Commissioners  
**FROM:** Krystle Heaney, LAFCo Clerk/Analyst  
**SUBJECT:** **City of Arcata Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Update (continued from September 16, 2020 Commission meeting)**  
The Commission will review and consider approving the Revised City of Arcata Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Update.

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### BACKGROUND

The Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act directs Local Agency Formation Commissions (LAFCOs) to regularly prepare municipal service reviews (MSRs) in conjunction with establishing and updating each local agency's sphere of influence (SOI). The legislative intent of MSRs is to proactively assess the availability, capacity, and efficiency of local governmental services prior to making SOI determinations.

### DISCUSSION

The City of Arcata ("City") is located on the northern shore of Humboldt Bay and was originally incorporated in 1858. The City stretches along U.S. Highway 101 between Bracut on the south to the Mad River on the north. Arcata is governed by a five-member city council whose members are elected at large. It operates its own police and environmental services departments providing a full range of municipal services. The City also contracts with outside agencies to provide certain municipal services, such as garbage collection. The Arcata Fire Protection District (Arcata FPD), a separate local government agency, provides fire protection and emergency medical services to the City and surrounding territory. Through contractual agreement, the City provides water service directly to the customers of Jacoby Creek County Water District (Jacoby Creek CWD). Arcata also provides wastewater treatment services for the Glendale area via agreement with the Fieldbrook-Glendale Community Services District.

The City covers approximately 11.4 square miles and provides water and sewer services to additional parcels in its Urban Service Boundary (USB) and Water Only USB. LAFCo staff has worked closely with the City of Arcata to review city services, identify existing areas served outside the city, and consider SOI boundary revisions. In an effort to better represent the current service areas of the City, LAFCo staff is proposing changes to the City's SOI. The largest changes are for the areas in and around Bayside and the Jacoby Creek County Water District to include all parcels currently served with water in addition to parcels that create a logical boundary for the area. While some areas, such as those served by the Jacoby Creek CWD, may not be considered for annexation by the City, they receive services from the City and as such are proposed to remain within the SOI.

Based on input from the Commission at the September 16, 2020 Commission meeting, staff has revised the MSR to include the following:

- Expanded explanation of relationship with Arcata FPD under Section 4.4 - Shared Services.
- Expanded discussion of the Wastewater Treatment Facility status under Section 5.2 – Environmental Services including a new subsection dedicated to sea level rise. This includes a new figure, *Figure 8: Arcata Wastewater Treatment Facility Planned Upgrades (Phase 2 and Future)*.
- A new discussion on emergency planning and preparedness under Section 5.4 – Law Enforcement.
- Revised MSR and SOI determinations including reference to recently adopted Jacoby Creek CWD MSR/SOI determinations regarding collaboration between the agencies on succession planning for the Jacoby Creek system and the future study area near Buttermilk Lane. Also noted City’s conservative budget due to COVID-19.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

This item has been agendaized for consideration as part of a noticed public hearing. The following procedures are recommended with respect to the Commission’s consideration of this item:

- 1) Receive verbal report from staff;
- 2) Open the public hearing and invite testimony (mandatory); and
- 3) Discuss item and – if appropriate – close the hearing and consider action on recommendation:

*“I move to adopt Resolution No. 20-09, thereby approving the City of Arcata Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Update, as described in the staff report.*

### Alternative Action:

Should the Commission wish to further discuss the MSR/ SOI and receive additional information from staff, the Commission can move to continue the public hearing to the next regularly scheduled public meeting.

### **Attachments**

Attachment A: City of Arcata MSR and SOI Update

Attachment B: Resolution No. 20-09