



AGENDA ITEM 8C

MEETING: January 20, 2021
TO: Humboldt LAFCo Commissioners
FROM: Krystle Heaney, LAFCo Clerk/Analyst
SUBJECT: **City of Trinidad Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Update**
The Commission will review and consider approving the City of Trinidad Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Update. Staff proposes minor changes to the SOI in order to follow parcel lines and designated water service areas. This public hearing is proposed to be continued to receive further information as specified by the commission and allow time for further public input.

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 Trinidad ("City") is located in Humboldt County, approximately eight miles north of the Arcata-Eureka airport. The City lies along Highway 101 is bordered by the Pacific Ocean to the west. The City covers approximately 417 acres and has not annexed new land since 1983.

Trinidad is governed by a five-member city council whose members are elected at large. The City offers multiple city services including water, stormwater management, parks and recreation, and volunteer fire services. While the City does not have a community wastewater collection and treatment system, it does manage an onsite wastewater treatment system program that oversees individual systems within the City. Fire services are provided by the Trinidad Volunteer Fire Department with significant support from CSA 4 CAL FIRE Trinidad Station during the fire and non-fire season. The nearby Westhaven Volunteer Fire Department also provides aid when needed.

Recently, the City has been working on assessing and improving the stormwater system as well as assessing the water treatment and distribution system. Due to the City's location on the cliffside above Trinidad Bay, stormwater runoff can have a large impact on surrounding natural resource areas such as the bay and also lead to erosion and landslides which may damage City infrastructure and private property. The City has worked to upgrade its stormwater system throughout the City and will continue to encourage low impact development in order to further reduce runoff in the area.

Water resources in the area are limited and more requests for water are being made every year. The City currently obtains water from Luffenholtz Creek and distributes water both inside and outside the City limits. Based on recent studies the City has enough capacity to meet current needs but does not have the current infrastructure to meet full build out of the City and additional requests from the surrounding area. Additionally, due to limited flow data for the creek, it is unknown if the City could exercise its full water rights. Other diversions on the creek and climate change may eventually decrease overall flow on the creek.

Staff has worked closely with City and its contract planners from SHN in order to provide the most up to date information for this MSR. Based on discussions with City staff, LAFCo staff is proposing minor modifications to the City's SOI in order to better follow designated water service subareas in and around the City. Due to the City's limited water supply network and pressures on water supply from outside sources, the SOI will not include the entire expanded water service area as it is not certain the City will be able to provide service to these areas.

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 continue the public hearing to the March 17, 2021 regular commission meeting in order to receive further information on discussion items as specified by the commission and allow time for further public input."

Alternative Action:

The commission can move to approve the MSR/SOI update as drafted.

Attachments

Attachment A: City of Trinidad MSR and SOI Update