



RESPONSE ACCOUNTABILITY



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INTRODUCTION

Each year the Grand Jury is required by California Penal Code §933(c) to submit a Final Report to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court with appropriate recommendations and results from investigations conducted by the Grand Jury.

The Grand Jury chose to include a section of the Final Report this year to an investigation which reviewed a prior Grand Jury report, recommendations and responses. A Response Accountability Report contains follow-up interviews and information gathered to determine if the agencies and/or departments are complying with the recommendations and responses given to these prior reports.

This section of the Final Report contains an update on the Newberry Community Services District investigation that was contained in the 2012-2013 San Bernardino County Grand Jury Final Report.

NEWBERRY COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

FINAL REPORT YEAR: 2012-2013

Recommendation Number: 13-28

Stated: The Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) should review suggestions made in its 2009 report and include more robust analysis of governance and reorganization options for the next Service Review of the District, scheduled for 2014.

LAFCO agreed to the recommendation, stating:

By action taken September 18, 2013, LAFCO has directed its staff to undertake an immediate off-cycle service review for the Newberry Community Services District (CSD) as well as the Yermo and Daggett Community Services Districts to address the concerns outlined in the Grand Jury Report and Recommendation #15.¹ The Commission chose to look at all three communities on the basis that the original report addressed the regional area and outlined the concerns for future sustainability of services.

LAFCO directed its staff to undertake a detailed analysis of the various service delivery options (which include but are not limited to consolidation or transfer of service to a more regional entity.)

¹ LAFCO stated that it responded to Recommendation #15. The report for Newberry Community Services District contained three recommendations, 13-26, 13-27, and 13-28. Within each of these recommendations were multiple sub-recommendations numbered from 1 to 15. Recommendation 13-28 was comprised of sub-recommendations 8-15.

Question: Has the recommendation been implemented?

Answer: Yes.

If so, how was it implemented/what changes were made?

In its Plan for Service in 2014, LAFCO considered options for the Newberry CSD to consider what could potentially achieve a consistent level of service and economies of scale. LAFCO found it would be preferable for Daggett CSD, Newberry CSD, and Yermo CSD to consolidate into a single district. The long-term benefit to the community would be through services which are consistent, allowing for flexibility in assigning resources, and streamlining governance and management. Community residents and CSD board members opposed consolidation into a single service district. LAFCO decided to continue to monitor the districts for compliance with the California Constitution and State law, and it directed LAFCO staff to return with biannual reports on the progress of satisfying deficiencies. If any of the governance issues worsen, LAFCO may initiate consolidation at any time or request an affected agency to do so.



Information regarding the
San Bernardino County Grand Jury
or an application to serve on the Grand Jury
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Information is also provided on the website at <http://cms.sbcounty.gov/grandjury/Home.aspx>