

TO: TOWN COUNCIL

FROM: TOWN MANAGER

RE: LOOMIS SPHERE OF INFLUENCE

**ISSUE**

At the September meeting Council Member Ucovich asked that Council begin a discussion on a sphere of influence.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Hear what Council Member Ucovich has to say and give direction to Staff if needed.

**CEQA**

There are no CEQA issues at present.

**MONEY**

There are no money issues at present.

**DISCUSSION**

At the September meeting Council Member Ucovich asked that Council discuss a Loomis sphere of influence. He advised that he currently sits as an alternate on LAFCO and that the agency will be looking to do a sphere study soon.

The Town General Plan does not mention a sphere increase in any of the typical areas, such as

- a future vision item (pg 11 & 12)
- land use implementation measures (pg 41)
- community design and character measures (pg 46)
- something needed parks and recreation implementation (pg 51)
- needed for economic development (pg 57 to 59)
- required for circulation (pg 76 to 80)
- helpful to meet housing needs (pg 96 to 105)
- useful for providing public services, facilities or finance (pg 108 & 109)
- needed for conservation of resources (pg 112 to 116)
- necessary for public safety (pg 131 to 133)

The one place in the General Plan where a sphere of influence is mentioned is in the glossary where it is defined as “The probable ultimate physical boundaries and service area

of a local agency (city or district) as determined by the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) of the County.” (pg 174)

The California Land Use Practice book has information on spheres of influence at section 14.86 (see attached) and it is noted there that LAFCOs must, as necessary, review and update spheres of influence on or before January 1, 2008 and every 5 years thereafter. In a phone conversation with the LAFCO Executive Director, Kristina Berry on 9/22/11 she indicated that a municipal services report (MSR) needs to be done and then a discussion can be had on spheres. A sphere can extend beyond a town border or be defined by the town border (“coterminous” is the term Ms Berry used). She noted that the MSR for Loomis would be bid as early as this year. We agreed to meet with the new manager when that person was available.

Also attached are pertinent from Curtin’s California Land Use and Planning Law” explaining spheres of influence. The key point is “Establishment of a sphere of influence is intended to determine which government agencies can provide services in the most efficient way to the people and property in any given area.” In short, spheres come with costs. Which of course leads to the question: Where are the revenues to pay for the costs?

Council may wish to discuss a sphere now or wait for the MSR to be completed or suggest something in particular that LAFCO should look at when it does the MSR.

Since the October Council meeting a new twist in annexations has occurred with the Governor signing SB 244 that requires “...cities to update their general plan by the next revision of their housing element to plan for disadvantaged unincorporated communities, including communities outside a city’s boundaries if it is in the city’s sphere of influence.” It is unknown if there are “disadvantaged” communities near to Loomis. Presumably the legislation defines “disadvantaged.” The Town Attorney may need to look closer at this if Council has an interest to increase the Town’s spheres. Finally, the State did not provide any money to do the extra studies. Nothing new there.