MEMORANDUM

TO: Local Agency Formation Commission
FROM: Stephen Betts, Deputy Executive Officer
SUBJECT: 17-07 – Mosquito Abatement Districts Municipal Service Reviews and Sphere of Influence Plans
DATE: July 26, 2017, for the meeting of August 3, 2017

Summary / Background

The Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 requires LAFCO to review and update, as necessary, local agency Spheres of Influence (SOIs) (California Government Code Section 56425(g). In addition, LAFCO is required to conduct a Municipal Service Review (MSR) for each agency prior to, or in conjunction with, an agency’s SOI update (California Government Code Section 56430(a)).

The existing MSR for the three mosquito abatement districts in Butte County was adopted by the Commission in May 2004, a little over 13 years ago. The 2004 MSR is significantly out of date and does not reflect the current operations of the three mosquito abatement districts. To address this situation, LAFCo Staff has prepared the Public Review Draft Municipal Service Reviews and Sphere of Influence Plans for Mosquito Abatement Districts within Butte County.

The MSR/SOI document contains an introductory section, a separate section on each of the three mosquito abatement districts, and two attachments - a letter from the Butte County Public Health Department (Attachment A), and the Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control Agency’s 2016 Annual Report (Attachment B).

The Public Review Draft of the MSR/SOI document was made available to the public for a 21-day noticed public review period that began Thursday, July 13, 2017. As of the date of this report, comments on the public review draft have been received from the Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District and from the Durham Mosquito Abatement District (Attachments A and B). A number of emails (Attachment C) have been received from the public regarding the Durham Mosquito Abatement District, but these comments do not address the contents of the MSR/SOI document.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Commission receive public comment on the Public Review Draft MSR/SOI Plan, provide any comments and direction to Staff, and continue the hearing open to a future Commission meeting. The deferment will provide time for Staff to consider the comments of the Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District and the Durham Mosquito Abatement District, and to consider any other comments or information that may be presented at the Commission’s August 3, 2017, meeting. Staff will prepare a revised draft Final MSR/SOI Plan and bring it back to the Commission for further Commission review.
**MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEWS**

The Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Act requires that a Municipal Service Review (MSR) be conducted prior to, or in conjunction with, the adoption or update of an SOI plan. A MSR is a comprehensive analysis of service provision by each of the special districts, cities, and the unincorporated county service areas within the legislative authority of the LAFCo. It essentially evaluates the capability of a jurisdiction to serve its existing residents and future development in its SOI. The legislative authority for conducting MSRs is provided in Section 56430 of the CKH Act, which states “...in order to prepare and to update Spheres of Influence in accordance with Section 56425, LAFCos are required to conduct a MSR of the municipal services provided in the County…”

Pursuant to Section 56430, in order to update a SOI, the associated MSR must have written determinations that address the following factors:

1. Growth and population projections for the affected area.
2. The location and characteristics of any disadvantaged unincorporated communities within or contiguous to the sphere of influence.
3. Present and planned capacity of public facilities, adequacy of public services, and infrastructure needs or deficiencies including needs or deficiencies related to sewers, municipal and industrial water, and structural fire protection in any disadvantaged, unincorporated communities within or contiguous to the sphere of influence.
4. Financial ability of agencies to provide services.
5. Status of, and opportunities for, shared facilities.
6. Accountability for community service needs, including governmental structure and operational efficiencies.
7. Any other matter related to effective or efficient service delivery, as required by commission policy.

These determinations must be made by the Commission before, or concurrently with, the sphere review and update for the mosquito abatement districts in Butte County.

It is important to understand the MSR data collection process and its limitations. First a questionnaire is provided to the agency that attempts to extract relevant data related to the MSR factors. The data within the municipal service reviews was obtained from the three mosquito abatement districts and from publicly available information. The determinations, findings, and conclusions of the MSRs are based upon the adequacy and completeness of the information received from the districts. There is an implied responsibility on the part of the agency under review to provide a full and complete record to LAFC0, however, the ability to verify information provided is limited without significant additional resources being applied.

**SPHERES OF INFLUENCE**

Under the CKH Act, LAFCOs are required to “develop and determine the sphere of influence of each local governmental agency within the county and enact policies designed to promote logical and orderly development of areas within the sphere” (Section 56425, CKH). A Sphere of Influence (SOI) is generally considered a 20-year, long-range planning tool, and is defined by Government Code Section 56425 as “...a plan for the probable physical boundary and service area of a local agency. ...” The sphere indicates the logical area in which the jurisdiction anticipates services will be needed and can be provided. According to the CHK Act, LAFCOs are required to, as necessary, review and update SOIs every five years.
A Sphere of Influence is a long-range planning tool that analyzes the physical boundary of a local agency or jurisdiction, and the present and probable need for services within that area. As such, it does not give property inside the sphere boundary any more development rights than already exist as land use authority in these areas remains entirely at the discretion of the County of Butte. Realistically, an agency’s SOI is solely reactive to the land use decisions already adopted by the agencies with land use authority. Ultimately, an SOI study assists LAFCo in making decisions about a change in a jurisdiction’s future service area boundary.

Butte LAFCo policies allow for different categories of spheres of influence including:

- "Growth" spheres that are larger than an agency's jurisdictional boundaries and anticipates a need to expand services to new territory;
- "Coterminous" spheres which mirror the agency's jurisdictional boundaries and indicates no additional service expansions are needed or an inability to expand services; and
- "Zero" spheres, which indicate the agency cannot or does not provide any services and should be considered for a merger or dissolved altogether.
- A "minus" sphere when it has determined that some territory within the agency's jurisdictional boundaries is not in need of all or some of the agency's services, or when the agency has no feasible plans to provide efficient and adequate service to the territory in question.
- A “limited or service specific” sphere designation for territory outside the agency's jurisdiction that may require some-but not all-of the services that the agency is authorized to provide.

Establishing the appropriate sphere category can be challenging as individual circumstances can vary between agencies. City spheres, which may convey future land use entitlements, are more scrutinized for growth impacts than a mosquito abatement district. Although a helpful tool for future planning, a sphere of influence determination does not convey any specific entitlements to landowners nor require an agency to guarantee services should priorities change.

Pursuant to Butte LAFCo’s Operations Manual Policies and Procedures, the Sphere of Influence Plans for all government agencies within LAFCo’s jurisdiction shall contain the following:

1. A map defining the probable 20-year boundary of its service area and coordinated with the Municipal Service Review.
2. Maps and explanatory text delineating the present land uses in the area, including, without limitation, improved and unimproved parcels; actual commercial, industrial, and residential uses; agricultural and open space lands; and the proposed future land uses in the area.
3. The present and probable need for public facilities and services in the sphere area. The discussion should include consideration of the need for all types of major facilities, not just those provided by the agency.
4. The present capacity of public facilities and adequacy of public services which the agency provides or is authorized to provide.
5. Identification of any relevant social or economic communities of interest in the area.
6. Existing population and projected population at build-out of the near- and long-term spheres of the agency.
7. A Municipal Service Review.
MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW/SOI PLAN FORMAT

The MSR/SOI Plan consists of an introductory chapter, a separate MSR/SOI Plan for each mosquito abatement district, a glossary, and, as noted above, the two attachments. The introductory chapter explains the MSR and SOI Plan update process and provides the statutory requirements that the Commission must follow to review and approve the MSRs and SOI Plans. The introductory chapter contains a comprehensive review of mosquito abatement services, mosquito biology, and mosquito-borne diseases.

Each district MSR/SOI Plan section contains:
- a detailed description of the services that the district provides,
- a detailed look at the district’s finances,
- a map of the district’s jurisdictional and SOI boundaries,
- MSR and SOI determinations specific to the district, and
- findings and recommendations for each district

MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICTS IN BUTTE COUNTY

The three mosquito abatement districts within Butte County are:

- The Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District (BCMVCD), formed in 1948.
- The Durham Mosquito Abatement District (DMAD), formed in 1918.
- The Oroville Mosquito Abatement District (OMAD), formed in 1916.

The Durham Mosquito Abatement District encompasses the unincorporated community of Durham and the immediate surrounding area, while the Oroville Mosquito Abatement District encompasses a large portion of the City of Oroville and the immediate surrounding area, including the unincorporated community of Thermalito. The Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District encompasses all of Butte County, excluding the parcels within the Durham and Oroville Mosquito Abatement Districts. The Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District also includes the unincorporated community of Hamilton City in Glenn County.

The Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District is a large, full service mosquito and vector control district with numerous full-time and seasonal employees, and has a wide range of equipment, including a full service lab, fish breeding facility and three airplanes used for aerial spraying operations. BCMVCD has annual revenues in excess of $3.5 million and expenditures in excess of $4.3 million.

The Durham and Oroville Mosquito Abatement Districts provide similar, but much more limited services, primarily ground fogging operations for adult mosquitoes. Each District has one full-time employee (the District Manager) and several part-time and seasonal employees. DMAD has annual average revenues of approximately $141,200 and annual average expenditures of $133,500, while OMAD has annual average revenues of approximately $181,362 and annual average expenditures of $148,500. Since the 2004 MSR was completed, both of these districts had annual per parcel assessments approved by the registered voters and landowners within the districts. The assessments significantly increased revenue for these districts, resulting in increased service levels and the purchase of new equipment.

As a result of the determinations contained in the 2004 Mosquito Abatement Districts Municipal Service Review, the Durham Mosquito Abatement District and the Oroville Mosquito Abatement
District were given a “Zero” Sphere of Influence (SOI) boundary by the Commission in 2005. At the same time, the Commission expanded the SOI of the Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District to encompass the Durham Mosquito Abatement District's and the Oroville Mosquito Abatement District's jurisdictional boundaries. Pursuant to Commission policies, a zero sphere of influence can be applied when a "districts functions are either non-existent, inadequate, no longer needed, or should be reallocated to some other agency of government. Adoption of a “zero” sphere indicates the agency should ultimately be reorganized or dissolved." The Commission may initiate dissolution of an agency when it deems such appropriate. It is for this reason that the BCMVCD SOI boundary overlaps the DMAD and the OMAD as the potential exists for the BCMVCD to serve these island areas in the event an agency reorganization is pursued.

MSR/SOI DETERMINATIONS

The MSRs and the SOI Plans contain numerous determinations regarding the ability of the mosquito abatement districts to provide services within their jurisdictional boundaries. A synopsis of the determinations for each district follows.

BCMVCD General Determinations

The determinations for the Butte County Mosquito and Vector District (BCMVCD) found that the District was well managed, well funded, provided effective, efficient, and wide-ranging mosquito abatement services. BCMVCD is highly transparent in their operations and the District has an excellent website. A determination for the BCMVCD found that the District is providing mosquito abatement services to a 900-acre wetlands area within the boundaries of the Durham Mosquito Abatement District and that consideration should be given to detaching that wetlands area, and possibly a much larger area consisting of rice fields, from DMAD and annexing it to BCMVCD. While the size or budget of an agency is not an automatic indicator of service capability or adequacy, in this case, the BCMVCD has demonstrated its high level of professionalism and commitment to providing the full range of vector control services.

DMAD General Determinations

The determinations for the Durham Mosquito Abatement District (DMAD) found that in general the District is providing adequate mosquito abatement services to the more populated areas of the District primarily through fogging operations. The District has a small, but stable source of revenue (property taxes and parcel assessments) and expenditures appear to be reasonable and necessary. The District has a large number of rice fields (totaling approximately 9,000 acres) and a 900-acre wetlands area, both of which the District is not able to effectively serve for lack of capability.

Determinations for DMAD showed that the District did not have annual financial audits prepared in a timely manner for a number of years, although the District now is up to date with their financial audits. These audits found several deficiencies in the District’s internal control of financial reporting, but the District reports these deficiencies have been corrected.

The District’s transparency is very limited due to the lack of a website where the public can go to obtain vital information about the District. Without an effective and comprehensive website, the public must make contact the District Manager to obtain information on the District. The District should create and maintain a comprehensive website where the public can easily obtain such things as Board of Trustees and District Manager contact information, meeting notices, agendas,
Although the District provides adequate mosquito abatement services to the more populated areas of the District, determinations for DMAD found that the public health benefits for the residents of the county as a whole may be improved by having only one countywide mosquito abatement district. Additionally, having one countywide mosquito abatement district may result in cost savings by having only one district manager, one administrative staff, and one governing board of trustees. The DMAD provides a fixed level of mosquito abatement services dictated by its limited funding and staffing capabilities and is unlikely to expand its service capabilities on par with the BCMVCD.

OMAD General Determinations

The determinations for the Oroville Mosquito Abatement District (OMAD) found that in general the District is providing adequate mosquito abatement services. The District has a small, but stable source of revenue (property taxes and parcel assessments) and expenditures appear to be reasonable and necessary.

A determination found that although requested to do so, the District did not provide any recent financial reports. However, the District did provide the last financial report that was completed – for Fiscal Years 2011-12 and 2012-13 - after completion of the Public Review Draft MSR/SOI Plan document. The District Manager stated that the District retained the services of a certified public accountant to prepare the financial audits/reports for Fiscal Years 2013-14 to 2016-17, but the accountant has been unable to complete the audits/reports due to an extended illness. OMAD Determination 4-4 requires that the District take all necessary steps to have financial audits/reports prepared for the missing fiscal years and requires the District to submit the completed financial audits/reports to LAFCo no later than two months from LAFCo approval of this MSR/SOI Plan. Once the financial audits/reports are submitted to LAFCo, LAFCo staff will submit to the Commission for review and approval any revisions made to Section 4.0, or to any other applicable section, of this MSR to reflect the findings of the financial audits/reports.

Although the District provides adequate mosquito abatement services to the more populated areas of the District, determinations for OMAD found that the public health benefits for the residents of the county as a whole may be improved by having only one countywide mosquito abatement district. Additionally, having one countywide mosquito abatement district may result in cost savings by having only one district manager, one administrative staff, and one governing board of trustees. The OMAD provides a fixed level of mosquito abatement services dictated by its limited funding and staffing capabilities and is unlikely to expand its service capabilities on par with the BCMVCD.

SPHERE OF INFLUENCE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the SOI determinations, findings and recommendations were identified for each mosquito abatement district. The SOI findings and recommendations for each district are:

BCMVCD SOI Findings and Recommendations

1. Finds that the services being provided by the Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District are adequate and are being provided in an effective and efficient manner.
2. Finds that no changes to the Sphere of Influence boundary for the Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District are necessary.
3. Affirms the existing Sphere of Influence boundary for the Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District as shown on the Sphere of Influence map on page 2-2.

4. Finds that the 2004 Mosquito and Vector Control District Municipal Service Review determined that the three mosquito abatement districts in Butte County should be consolidated.

5. Finds that in 2005, the Commission gave a “Zero” Sphere of Influence boundaries to the Durham and Oroville Mosquito Abatement Districts and amended the Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District’s Sphere of Influence boundary to include the area within the Durham and Oroville Mosquito Abatement Districts jurisdictional boundaries.

6. Finds that the 2016-17 Butte County Grand Jury determined that the Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District, the Durham Mosquito Abatement District, and the Oroville Mosquito Abatement District should be consolidated into one district.

DMAD SOI Findings and Recommendations

1. Finds that the Durham Mosquito Abatement District provides basic mosquito abatement services to only the more populated areas of the District.

2. Finds that the Durham Mosquito Abatement District does not provide effective mosquito abatement services to the wetland/wildlife areas and to the numerous rice fields within the District, which results in extremely large populations of breeding mosquitoes that represent a significant public health threat as they migrate both within and outside the District.

3. Finds that in 2005 the Commission gave the Durham Mosquito Abatement District a Zero Sphere of Influence boundary for many of the same reasons identified in this MSR and that there have been no substantial changes to the services provided by the District in 2017.

4. Affirms the existing Zero Sphere of Influence boundary for the Durham Mosquito Abatement District as shown on the Sphere of Influence map on page 3-2 as an indication that the District does not have the capability to provide comprehensive mosquito abatement services to all areas within its current territory.

5. Finds that the 2004 Mosquito and Vector Control District Municipal Service Review determined that the three mosquito abatement districts in Butte County should be consolidated.

6. Finds that the 2016-17 Butte County Grand Jury determined that the Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District, the Durham Mosquito Abatement District, and the Oroville Mosquito Abatement District should be consolidated into one district.

7. Finds that the residents of the Durham Mosquito Abatement District would be provided more effective, efficient, and comprehensive mosquito abatement and vector control services by the Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District which presently surrounds the Durham Mosquito Abatement District.

8. Concurs with the Butte County Department of Public Health’s observations contained above and finds that the public health of the residents of the Durham Mosquito Abatement District, as well as the residents of Butte County as a whole, would be better protected from mosquito infestations by the Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District, which has effective, efficient, and comprehensive mosquito abatement and vector control programs.

9. Finds the Durham Mosquito Abatement District should be dissolved, and the area subsequently annexed to the Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District, or consolidated with the Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District.

OMAD SOI Findings and Recommendations

1. Finds that the Oroville Mosquito Abatement District provides basic mosquito abatement services to only the more populated areas of the District.
2. Finds that in 2005 the Commission gave the Oroville Mosquito Abatement District a Zero Sphere of Influence boundary for many of the same reasons identified in this MSR and that there have been no substantial changes to the services provided by the District in 2017.

3. Affirms the existing Zero Sphere of Influence boundary for the Oroville Mosquito Abatement District as shown on the Sphere of Influence map on page 4-2 as an indication that the District does not have the capability to provide comprehensive mosquito abatement services to all areas within its current territory.

4. Finds that the 2004 Mosquito and Vector Control District Municipal Service Review determined that the three mosquito abatement districts in Butte County should be consolidated.

5. Finds that the 2016-17 Butte County Grand Jury determined that the Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District, the Durham Mosquito Abatement District, and the Oroville Mosquito Abatement District should be consolidated into one district.

6. Finds that the residents of the Oroville Mosquito Abatement District would be provided more effective, efficient, and comprehensive mosquito abatement and vector control services by the Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District, which presently surrounds the Oroville Mosquito Abatement District.

7. Concurs with the Butte County Department of Public Health's observations contained above and finds that the public health of the residents of the Oroville Mosquito Abatement District, as well as the residents of Butte County as a whole, would be better protected from mosquito infestations by the Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District, which has effective, efficient, and comprehensive mosquito abatement and vector control programs.

8. Finds the Oroville Mosquito Abatement District should be reorganized, and the area subsequently annexed to the Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District, or consolidated with the Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District.

Comprehensive Recommendations

The overall process of reviewing the mosquito abatement districts has led to several comprehensive recommendations that go beyond the individual districts. These recommendations below speak to the broader management and operations of the mosquito abatement districts within the County and what issues warrant additional review by LAFCo. Unlike many enterprise services that agencies provide, mosquito and vector control services do not focus on a single parcel, but rather to be effective, must be managed over large geographic areas and diverse conditions. Without such large scale coordinated services to address migrating pests, one agency cannot ensure effectiveness if another agency operates at a different level of services. This reality becomes of greater importance when public health concerns are in play.

1. At present, there is very little evidence submitted of consistent professional contact between the three agencies and no clear, unified approach to countywide mosquito and vector control services. Such a lack of integration in attacking a mobile pest with ranges up to 20 miles that do not respect political boundaries is an opportunity lost and only serves to complicate public health outcomes. It is paramount that all three districts view mosquito and vector control as a countywide public health concern, a concern that does not respect boundaries and one that cannot be waged independently. RECOMMENDATION: At the very minimum, the three mosquito abatement districts should fully cooperate with each other, and share facilities, equipment, personnel, and costs, to ensure that mosquito abatement services are provided effectively, equally and efficiently to all residents of Butte County. This level of cooperation/coordination should begin immediately with regularly scheduled coordination meetings between the District managers.
2. The Durham and Oroville Mosquito Abatement Districts do provide adequate adult mosquito abatement services primarily focused on a philosophy of regular and consistent fogging of populated areas during mosquito season. They however, do not provide comprehensive mosquito abatement and vector control services to the residents of their district based on their lack of a fully vetted integrated vector management plan (IVMP) and lack of greater resources, such as aerial spraying and on-site laboratories. The lack of such integrated vector management program could create public health issues as expressed by the Butte County Department of Public Health. **RECOMMENDATION:** Both DMAD and OMAD should immediately develop an IVMP that addresses ALL aspects of vector control as established by the Mosquito and Vector Control Association of California. Additionally, both DMAD and OMAD should immediately reach out to the Butte County Department of Public Health for any helpful public health guidance available and fully participate in any DPH mosquito and vector control coordination efforts.

3. The Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District provides professional, comprehensive and complete mosquito abatement and vector control services to the residents of their district. Given their geographic position surrounding the other two districts and effectiveness in managing all aspects of an IVMP, thus reducing breeding sources and migrating adult mosquitoes, the BCMVCD is by default, already providing a level of mosquito control services to the other two districts. The BCMVCD District Manager has indicated that the district can provide the same services to the residents of the Durham and Oroville Mosquito Abatement Districts. **RECOMMENDATION:** OMAD and DMAD should aggressively consider exploring ALL options to improve services to their constituents including discussing with BCMVCD options for shared services.

4. Numerous Butte County Grand Juries, including the most recent (Fiscal Year 2016-2017), have determined that the three mosquito abatement districts in Butte County should be consolidated into one countywide district. This conclusion also appears to be supported by the Butte County Department of Public Health and the City of Oroville City Council (as further discussed in the OMAD Chapter). **RECOMMENDATION:** The three mosquito abatement districts in Butte County should be reorganized in some manner so that there is only a single, countywide mosquito abatement and vector control district.

**MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICTS GOVERNMENTAL STRUCTURE - REORGANIZATION**

There are three mosquito abatement districts within Butte County; one very large, well-funded district (BCMVCD) that surrounds the other two much smaller districts (OMAD and DMAD). The proposed MSR/SOI plan is an opportunity to carefully evaluate and compare each district and consider any governance restructuring scenarios that may result in improved efficiencies and public health outcomes. Scenarios include,

- The smaller districts (OMAD, DMAD) remain intact but contract all services through the BCMVCD, thus acting as a funding mechanism;
- The three districts could be consolidated into one county-wide mosquito abatement district; and
- Another approach that would result in just one county-wide abatement district would be the dissolution of the two smaller districts – DMAD and OMAD - and the annexation of those districts territory to the BCMVCD. It should be noted that BCMVCD’s existing sphere of influence already encompasses the boundaries of DMAD and OMAD.

Potential positive impacts of a reorganization of the three districts may include a uniform county-wide mosquito abatement and vector control program, reduced administrative and operating costs,
improved reserves, and greater public visibility, which could create an improved image of program accountability. A reorganization of the three districts would be expected to result in improved overall mosquito abatement and vector control services to the residents of the two smaller districts (DMAD and OMAD), who would have access to greater resources and more programs. This approach is supported by the 2016-2017 Butte County Grand Jury Report and the May 31, 2017, letter from the Butte County Department of Public Health as discussed below.

A reorganization may also have negative impacts such as increased operational complexities, particularly in light of the difference in services and philosophy between each agency. The opportunity to consolidate the district may be affected by limited funding, inability to expand into new areas based on existing funding levels, and/or political issues, especially regarding the loss of local control. Additionally, a consolidation of the three districts, if effectively protested, would require majority approval by the registered voters of all three districts, but such approval is not assured. Such governance reorganizations are not always readily accepted among affected constituents who may feel current services are adequate and who have a type of brand loyalty to their current local agency and board of directors and perhaps more importantly, local agency personnel. Additionally, the costs to prepare a consolidation or reorganization study and to hold an election could be cost prohibitive and funding would need to be secured before going forward with the consolidation process. The BCMVCD Manager has indicated that BCMVCD could provide mosquito and vector control services to these areas, and which could be accomplished without the need for the current employees, assets, and facilities of both the OMAD and DMAD. With the resources, assets, and staff that BCMVCD has to offer, the BCMVCD Manager strongly believes that the protection of the public’s health would increase within these two districts dramatically.

The 2004 Municipal Service Review adopted by the Commission determined that “…reorganizing the three districts into one county-wide district would provide numerous advantages and with little to no disadvantages. There may be a slight limit of ‘personalized’ service in the Durham and Oroville areas, but that disadvantage is greatly outweighed by the advantages of a county-side district with a large number of employees, regularly scheduled office hours, education and training programs, and aerial capability.”

Subsequent to adoption of the 2004 MSR, the Commission adopted Resolution No. 17 2004/05 that gave the Durham Mosquito Abatement District and the Oroville Mosquito Abatement District a “Zero” Sphere of Influence. Pursuant to Butte LAFCo Policy 3.1.11, the Zero SOI designation indicates that one or more of the public service functions of the agency are either non-existent, inadequate, no longer needed, or should be reallocated to some other agency of government. Adoption of a “zero” sphere indicates the agency should ultimately be reorganized or dissolved and that the Commission may initiate dissolution of an agency when it deems such appropriate. Resolution 17 2004/05 gave the Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District an expanded sphere of influence, which took in the SOI of Durham Mosquito Abatement District and the Oroville Mosquito Abatement District. BCMVCD’s SOI now encompasses all of Butte County and the Hamilton City area of Glenn County.

Numerous Butte County Grand Jury reports, including the most recent Grand Jury report, have included a review of one or more of the three mosquito abatement districts in the county. The following was extracted from the various Grand Jury reports regarding consolidation of the mosquito abatement districts in Butte County.
• **1971 Grand Jury Report** - “…it is believed to be in the best interest of the entire County to eventually have all mosquito abatement controlled from one central plant, the Butte County Mosquito Abatement District.”

• **1972 Grand Jury Report** - “The Grand Jury recommends consolidation of mosquito abatement districts into one Butte County Mosquito Abatement District.”

• **1973-74 Grand Jury Report** - “Previous grand juries have recommended consolidation of the three Mosquito Abatement Districts within Butte County. Research in the past years as to cost, efficiency, and tax rates show that consolidation is favorable and this Grand Jury concurs.”

• **1979-80 Grand Jury Report** - “Observation. Until such time as the Oroville and Durham Mosquito Abatement Districts, either through their respective Boards of Directors or the people within their service areas actively seek inclusion in the larger Butte County Mosquito Abatement District, no further consideration should be given the matter. The question of merger is basically a local government decision.”

• **1980-81 Grand Jury Report** - “Finding: Prior Grand Juries have recommended a merger of the Oroville Mosquito Abatement District with the Butte County Mosquito Abatement District. Recommendation: The committee found the Oroville Mosquito Abatement District to be very professionally managed with a professional dedicated employee. Cost containment was evident in all areas therefore no need or practical benefit can be seen for a merger at this time.”

• **2007-08 Grand Jury Report** - “This Grand Jury has chosen not to make a recommendation on whether the three districts should consolidate, but to try and make the voters aware of all options. In the event of future ballot measures for additional special parcel tax assessments, voters should be aware of the consolidation alternative.”

• **2009-10 Grand Jury Report** – “OMAD should continue to function as an independent mosquito abatement district and should not be consolidated with another mosquito abatement district.”

• **2016-17 Grand Jury Report** – “Recommendation R1. The Grand Jury recommends that pending the results of the 2017 MSR, LAFCo initiate the process of consolidating OMAD and DMAD under BCMVCD.”

The 2016-17 Grand Jury report also stated:

“Having three districts performing the same function in the same county brings redundancies. Each district has a board, is required to be compliant with all applicable labor and pesticide regulations, requires an annual audit, regular board meetings, budgets and bookkeepers. This encumbers each of the districts with a minimum level of costs, and the budgets of OMAD and DMAD are such that after covering the costs of these operational requirements, there is little funding left for actual control. Effectiveness would be greatly improved by consolidating the three districts under one set of policies and one management team.

In the past, when Grand Juries have recommended consolidation, or LAFCo released their MSR in 2004 recommending the districts be consolidated, no consolidation action was taken. The Grand Jury believes this is because there was no leadership to put the
A reorganization of the three mosquito abatement districts into one county-wide district should be closely examined by LAFCo to determine if a reorganization would actually result in improved, more efficient, and more cost-effective comprehensive mosquito abatement and vector control services to the Durham and Oroville areas, and would be expected to result in improved public health benefits to the residents of the county as a whole. Mosquito abatement services in the Durham and Oroville areas consist primarily of the control of adult mosquitoes through fogging operations. The services provided by the Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District are significantly more comprehensive, more effective at all aspects and stages of vector control, and more efficient than the services provided by the Durham and Oroville Mosquito Abatement Districts given the total integration of all five aspects of mosquito control discussed above.

The public health benefits of having only one county-wide mosquito abatement district cannot be understated as supported by comments received from the Butte County Public Health Department (DPH), Community Health and Sciences Office, in their comment letter of May 31, 2017 (Attachment A to the MSR/SOI Plan). The DPH is very concerned about the ongoing presence of West Nile virus cases in the County and in their letter, DPH notes that Butte County consistently ranks among the state's counties with the highest West Nile virus case rates (number of cases by population).

The DPH believes that a close working relationship with local vector control agencies is critical to their efforts to detect, monitor and prevent WNV disease, further stating that "Having one agency to work with would likely improve efficiencies and provide a more consistent approach" to addressing the WNV concerns.

While reorganization options are being analyzed, the DMAD and OMAD Board of Trustees could contract with the Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District to provide mosquito abatement services within DMAD and OMAD’s jurisdictional boundaries. In this scenario, DMAD and OMAD would transfer most of the revenues they receive to BCMVCD, which in turn would use those funds to provide mosquito abatement and vector control services to the DMAD and OMAD service area. BCMVCD may be reluctant to agree to this plan and this scenario may result in the elimination of DMAD’s and OMAD’s District Manager position since there may be no duties for this person to perform. In this scenario, DMAD and OMAD would continue to exist and the DMAD and OMAD Board of Trustees would occasionally meet to handle administrative affairs, such as approving the District’s annual budget.

**Changes to the CSA MSR/SOI Plan**

Staff has identified a number of minor typographical errors in the Draft MSR/SOI Plan and correcting these errors will not result in any changes to the determinations or findings. The Durham Mosquito Abatement District has provided extensive comments on the Draft MSR/SOI Plan (Attachment B), which will take time for Staff to consider and to make any needed changes to the draft document. Comments on the Draft MSR/SOI Plan were also provided by the Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District that may require changes to the document.
Support/Protest

A legal notice regarding the 21-day public review period for the MSR/SOI Plan and notice of the August 3, 2017, Commission hearing on the MSR/SOI Plan was published in the Chico Enterprise-Record on July 13, 2017. The notice and the Draft MSR/SOI Plan were placed on Butte LAFCO’s webpage. The notice was also posted on Butte LAFCO’s office door and at the Butte County Administration Office.

As of the date of this report, written comments regarding the Public Review Draft MSRs/SOI Plans have been received from the Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District and the Durham Mosquito Abatement District. Staff did not have sufficient time to adequately review these comments to be able to address them in this staff report or to recommend changes to the draft MSR/SOI Plan document. The comments received from these two districts are attached to this report as Attachments A and B.

A number of emails (Attachment C) have been received from the public regarding the Durham Mosquito Abatement District, but these comments do not address the contents of the MSR/SOI document.

Environmental Determination

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires that the Commission undertake and review an environmental analysis before granting approval of a project, as defined by CEQA. Butte LAFCO is the Lead Agency for environmental review for the proposed mosquito abatement districts MSRs and the SOI Plans.

The Municipal Service Reviews for the mosquito abatement district are categorically exempt from the preparation of environmental review under a classification related to information gathering (Class 6 - Regulation Section 15306), which states: "Class 6 consists of basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. These may be strictly for information gathering purposes, or as part of a study leading to an action which a public agency has not yet approved, adopted, or funded." The MSR collects data for the purpose of evaluating municipal services provided by the agency. There is no land use change or environmental impact created by such a study. There is no possibility that the MSR update will have a significant effect on the environment because there are no land use changes associated with the MSR update.

The SOI Plans for the mosquito abatement districts are categorically exempt from environmental review pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) – General Rule Exemption, which states that CEQA applies only to projects which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA. No changes to the current SOIs of the mosquito abatement districts are proposed as a result of the SOI Plans.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Commission receive public comment, provide any comments and direction to Staff, and continue the hearing open to a future Commission meeting. The delay will provide time for Staff to consider the comments of the Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District and the Durham Mosquito Abatement District, and to consider any other additional
comments or information that may be presented to the Commission at the Commission’s August 3, 2017, meeting. Staff will prepare a revised draft MSR/SOI Plan and bring it back to the Commission for further Commission review.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Betts
Deputy Executive Officer

Attachments:

A: Comments Received from the Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District (Page 16)
B: Comments Received from the Durham Mosquito Abatement District (Page 19)
C: Emails Received regarding the Durham Mosquito Abatement District (Page 23)
Attachment A - Comments from BCMVCD

Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District
5117 Larkin Road, Oroville, CA 95965-9250
Phone: 530-533-6038 • Fax: 530-534-9916
www.BCMVCD.com
Matthew C. Ball
Manager

July 24, 2017

Stephen Betts
Deputy Executive Officer
Butte Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo)
1453 Downer St., Suite C, Oroville, CA 95965-4950

Dear Mr. Betts,

I have reviewed the Public Review Draft MSR/SOI Plan for the Mosquito Abatement Districts within Butte County: Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District, Durham Mosquito Abatement District, and Oroville Mosquito Abatement District. This letter is intended to provide clarification to various areas of the MSR/SOI Plan.

On page 1-3, the District is reported to receive in excess of $3.5 million and expenditures in excess of $4.3 million. The District never anticipates spending Appropriations for Contingencies, and if the District’s expenditures exceed revenues it is due to allocating and transferring allocated reserves to Special Services and/or Capital for projects for which the District has planned.

On page 1-5, the Plan states, “...reorganizing the three districts into one county-wide district would provide numerous advantages and with little to no disadvantages. There may be a slight limit of ‘personalized’ service in the Durham and Oroville areas, but that disadvantage is greatly outweighed by the advantages of a county-wide district with a large number of employees, regularly scheduled office hours, education and training programs, and aerial capability.” The District argues that there would be no limit of ‘personalized’ service. In 2016 the District has record of completing 2,142 resident generated service requests. The District personally services each resident that requests service regardless of location within the service area and this is usually completed in less than three days.

On page 1-19, the Plan states that as of April 28, 2016, there has been no local transmission of Zika virus in the continental United States. However, several months after April 2016, two Zika outbreaks occurred in Florida and local transmission is also believed to have occurred in Texas. 224 cases acquired through presumed local mosquito-borne transmission in Florida (N=218) and Texas (N=6). In 2016, California had 421 symptomatic imported human Zika infections and to date in 2017, 17. With the detections of several Aedes spp. in 11 California counties (and growing), Zika is becoming a greater concern to California. The District has continued to expand and enhance its surveillance system to identify these new invasive mosquito species (Aedes aegypti and Aedes albopictus) in California. The District’s hope is to identify these species early on, before they can become established. Once established, eradication efforts have
been extremely costly and have yielded poor results in other parts of California. The key to lowering the risks of Zika virus, chikungunya virus, yellow fever, and dengue fever are to keep these two species of mosquitoes out of Butte County.

On page 1-24, the District Manager still agrees that the District could provide mosquito and vector control services to the areas DMAD and OMAD without the need for the current employees, assets, and facilities of DMAD and OMAD. With the resources, assets, and staff that the District can offer, the District strongly believes that the protection of the public’s health versus mosquito-borne disease would increase within the service areas of DMAD and OMAD.

On page 1-30, the Plan states, “at the very minimum, the three mosquito abatement districts should fully cooperate with each other, and share facilities, equipment, personnel, and costs, to ensure that mosquito abatement services are provided effectively, equally and efficiently to all residents of Butte County. This level of cooperation/coordination should begin immediately with regularly scheduled coordination meetings between the District managers.” The District has offered to assist DMAD and OMAD in the past and will continue to offer assistance when and where applicable and feasible. The District has offered to create fog maps, aerial surveillance at a reduced cost, trap construction, training opportunities, and aerial ULV for reduced costs. The District has and continues to submit all of the dead birds in the county as DMAD and OMAD stopped participating in the state’s dead bird program. The District does not understand how to share facilities, equipment, personnel, and costs any further than what has already transpired and/or been offered. The District’s tax dollars are to be used for the betterment and public health protection of the tax payers of the Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District. Equipment, personnel and costs are used to provide the services of the District to the District’s service area. The sharing of facilities is not currently covered by the District’s general and liability insurance. The District would prefer to not assume added liability for the storage and/or use of the District’s facilities. The District has been, and remains, a partner that will assist DMAD, OMAD, and other regional MVCDs in the time of emergency for a vector-borne disease outbreak.

On page 2-27, the Plan states the District received $652,729 in revenues from the RDA residual pass through. “It should be noted that the revenue from the RDA residual pass through funds received by the District in FY 2015-16 was significantly greater than that received in the three prior fiscal years, when $351,004, $361,199, and $383,754 was received.” This is correct. The District received two installments on the same fiscal year when the RDAs were abolished. This was a one-time revenue source and the District does not anticipate this happening again.

On page 2-35, opportunity of shared resources and facilities: the District has and will continue to offer expertise, advice, and some services mentioned above for free and/or at a reduced cost. As mentioned before, the District’s tax dollars are to be used for the betterment and public health protection of the tax payers of the Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District.

On page 2-36, “The District Board of Trustees recently approved switching the Board meeting packets from paper to electronic format and the District is currently in the process of purchasing tablet computers for this purpose. Switching to the electronic meeting packets will reduce staff time in preparing the Board meeting packets and will reduce costs as no paper or photocopying will be required.” After some discussion and issues ordering the tablets, the Board agreed to switch back to paper Board meeting packets at the June 14, 2017, Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees.
On page 4-12, the District adamantly disagrees with the statement, “which operates at a county-wide level and cannot reasonably and immediately respond to each and every inquiry for service.” As stated before, the District responds to each and every request regardless of location, usually completing the request within three business days.

The Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District Board of Trustees has maintained the same position in regards to consolidation for over 40 years. The Trustees do not wish to require residents of the other districts to join the Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District, unless they voted to do so, or the districts were dissolved or eliminated by their trustees or residents. This opinion remains in force today.

The District thanks you for this opportunity to comment on the Public Review Draft and MSR/SOI Plan for the Mosquito Abatement Districts within Butte County. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

Matthew C. Ball
District Manager
Attachment B - Comments from DMAD

Changes to Public Review Draft by LAFCO

Page 3-1
Area Served:
3. District Size: 64 Square Miles

Page 3-3
1st Paragraph:
64 Square Miles

Page 3-4
1st Paragraph
DMAD not OMAD

Page 3-5
MSR Factor No. 1:
Acreage doesn’t add up:
34,500 acres in Agriculture
12,200 [orchard Crops] + 9,000 (rice) + 6,650 (grazing) = 27,850. Even if you add the
900 Acres in Wetlands this only comes to 28,750.
64 square miles = 40,960 in Acreage. Less the urban number you provide of 1,195 = 39,765.

Page 3-6 Last paragraph – we are unincorporated

Page 3-8 Facilities:
Meetings were and could still be held in our building

Page 3-10
We do treat rice fields by adulticiding them.

Page 3-11
Paragraph 3- Given the District’s very limited funding.
Since our assessments in 2004 this statement is no longer true

Page 3-12
Paragraph 2- When the mosquito activity is high between March through October the
district tries to go down every populated street and least once per week. Every resident in
the district will be covered sometime throughout the year. Even the most rural and remote
ones will be covered.

Page 3-12
Paragraph 3- Because DMAD does treat the rice fields, it is addressing the root cause.

Page 3-14 – Paragraph 4 - the statement that rice is not being treated is factually wrong. The district
does treat rice fields we just don’t larvacide them. We fog the rice and the borders of the
rice fields killing as many adults before they come north to populated areas.

Page 3-15 – MSR Determination 3-4
See Notes from page 3-14 Paragraph 4

Page 3-18 – Expenditure for DMAD not BCMVCD
On the Graph the years of 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15 revenue is incorrect and does not
match the revenue stated on page 3-22

Page 3-23 Net Pension Liability (CalPERS)
Paragraph 1- DMAD not OMAD (last sentence).
Page 3-29 – The District has implemented all deficiencies and it should be noted that even though the audit showed problems with the bookkeeping methods, there was not any loss of money or evidence of fraud.

Paragraph 3 – The District has no control over the Financial Reports created by the County. There is a QuickBooks file that is kept at the Bookkeeper’s office that has detail about the amounts paid for the pension plan. The LACFO representative did not ask to see these books. These books are submitted to the CPA firm doing the audit to make sure all balances with the county financial statements. There have not been any issues reported about the QuickBooks file.

Page 3-30 – Paragraph 2 – This issues will affect all three districts equally

Page 3-31 – MSR Determination 4-5 – This has been implemented, the District is conducting audits every two years, just completed 2015/2016 and 2016/2017.

Page 3-32 – MSR Factor No. 5

The BCMVD does not share costs with DMAD. They do not perform spray equipment characterization or calibration for DMAD. DMAD carries out its own calibration in consultation with the adulticide vendor.

Last paragraph: The goal of mosquito abatement is to control mosquitoes and minimize disease. To that end, rather than spread BCMVC even thinner than it already is, let us maximize the strengths of all three mosquito abatement districts. DMAD should spray all of Butte Creek Country Club as well as Dayton. DMAD is better suited to spray these two areas by virtue of the proximity of DMAD to both. Indeed DMAD already sprays all of Butte Creek CC and Dayton is less than a 10 minute drive from Durham. In return BCMVC should control all the area encompassed by Rancho Esquon.

Page 3-33 – Paragraph 1 – Arce should be Acre at the end of Line 2

BCMVC does aerial spray the 900 acre wetlands area on Esquon Ranch. They were willing to do it at cost and no markup like a private business would do. We could have taken care of it but in the best interest of the landowner and saving him money. It should be made a note that they are defiantly reimbursed for these activities on the wetlands.

Page 3-33 – MSR Determination 5-1 –

We do work with each other. There is much more cooperation between the districts than indicated in the opinion.

Page 3-36 – Paragraph 2 –

The Vehicle does have an emblem on their trucks. When LAFCO visited, that truck had just been washed and the magnetic sign had not been put back on yet as the truck was drying.

Page 3-37 – Governmental Structure – Reorganization – See Page 3-32 Last Paragraph

District Boundary Changes – DMAD would like to do a line swap with BCMVCD.

Page 3-38 – Paragraph 1

This report is a report by LAFCO and their findings and opinions. Not a report by the BCMVCD Manager – why is his opinion stated here?
60% of our expenditures goes to actual control.

DMAD provides a service to the Durham residents that BCMVCD could not – community networking, a presence and responsiveness in the community. This scenario would not be one the Town of Durham would be happy about.

The Temporary help that is employed by the District has been trained to run the abatement portion of the Manager’s job in his absence. The Bookkeeper has been trained to handle issues with the County and State regarding our licensing and budgeting. If the Manager had to be replaced, the District could be managed temporarily until a replacement was found.

This determination will affect all three Districts equally. But, Property values in Durham are more likely to remain stable than in other parts of Butte County. Should property values reduce in Butte County, DMAD would lose less revenue than BCMVC because property values are more stable in Durham.

The LAFCO report suggested that there would be greater public visibility, and improved public health benefits. It would actually be quite the opposite. People in the Durham area observe mosquito control a regular basis. Further, it would be difficult to find one resident who does not know the DMAD regularly sprays. DMAD prides itself on that. DMAD wants the residents of the District to not just perceive, but know that they are getting the most care and control for their investment. Indeed, there are large portions of areas outside of the DMAD area that do not know what mosquito control is nor have they ever seen someone working. That is because these areas are “serviced” by BCMVCD which has a very large area with far fewer personnel on the ground per sq mile than does DMAD. BCMVCD also refuses to spray the most heavily populated areas due to fear of public backlash and as a result has the highest number of West Nile Virus cases (85, figure on page 3-13). The city of Chico is rarely ever fogged because of public opinion of them. DMAD does not have this problem. Durham residents welcome our spray rigs and want us to come by to treat for mosquitoes.

The report says that DMAD does not treat the rice fields. This is completely inaccurate. DMAD treats the rice fields with adulticide.

Again, DMAD does indeed treat the rice fields. DMAD does not use aerial treatment.

The report states that DMAD provides only basic service... That statement is inaccurate. DMAD covers not only the populated areas, but also the peripheral areas of Rancho Esquon (as stated above).
As suggested above, the three districts can play to their strengths. Because BCMVC has planes and DMAD does not, perhaps the best solution is for the boundaries to be shifted such that BCMVC can aerially spray the wetlands and rice fields of Rancho Esquon while DMAD can spray both Dayton and all of Butte Creek Country club, both of which DMAD is more capable of doing than BCMVC.
From: Lori Murasko [mailto:lorimurasko@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Wednesday, June 14, 2017 11:01 AM
To: Lucas, Steve
Subject: Mosquito Abatement

Hello Mr Lucas,

My name is Lori Murasko, and I have been a resident of Durham for over 15 years. I strongly feel that Durham Mosquito Abatement should remain separate from the rest of the county.

Thank you,
Lori Murasko
From: Michelle Paris [mailto:michelleparis81@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 14, 2017 10:53 AM
To: Lucas, Steve
Subject: Durham Mosquito Abatement

Dear Mr. Lucas,

We would like to see Durham Mosquito Abatement kept separate from the rest of the county. The District does a great job keeping mosquito levels down and are very responsive to community needs. Please don't change a thing.

Michelle and Bill Paris
Durham Residents

Sent from my iPhone
From: Melissa Shuler [mailto:mjshuler1211@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 28, 2017 2:28 AM
To: Lucas, Steve
Subject: Durham mosquito abatement

Mr. Lucas,

I cannot tell you how important it is to the residents of Durham to keep services exactly how they are. I have spoken to many of the residents who whole heartedly agree. Butte Creek has been my back yard for the last 20 years. The guys at the abatement office are wonderful in the fact that they have done a fantastic job at taking care of our needs for spraying in a timely manner. I have small grandchildren that are susceptible to any harm the chemicals may cause. I can call Aaron anytime and if there aren't mosquitoes and my grandchildren are here or if the mosquitoes are unusually heavy I can request the day of them to spray 2 days in a row or not spray that particular day. The system in place works perfectly! These guys know their job, know Durham residents and are cohesive as a team! Please don’t “fix us” because we aren’t broken! Thanks, Melissa Shuler 2126 Durham Dayton hwy #F Durham 530-717-0599. PLEASE Leave us alone!
From: Janice Bogar Peterson
To: Bets, Steve
Subject: DMAD
Date: Wednesday, July 19, 2017 10:01:18 AM

Dear Mr. Betts,

I am a long time Durham resident and I am very sorry to hear that you are considering doing away with The Durham Mosquito Abatement District. I have over the years called on the local office numerous times to help with our local mosquito problems. They have always responded rapidly and helped us efficiently. Because of the agricultural nature of our area we are very prone to mosquito infestation and having an office in town is very helpful. If you remove our local office we will be a small community that no one will care about and our needs will be forgotten, or at least moved to the bottom of the list. Please understand that this is important to us and reconsider.

Janice Peterson
8747 Midway
P.O. Box 678  Durham, Ca
From: Gloria Rose
To: Steve Stove
Subject: Durham Mosquito Abatement
Date: Wednesday, July 19, 2017 10:11:55 AM

ATTN: Stephen Betts
I have been a resident of Durham for 45 years so I have a lot of background regarding the mosquitos. I truly do NOT want Chico or any other agency to take over our Mosquito Abatement service. We are VERY happy with the job our agency is doing and actually I don't trust any arguments supporting taking it away!! I think who ever the powers that be just want our money. I am so happy with the mosquito population down, as it is now. I plan to attend the meeting August 3rd.

Thank you, Gloria Rose 891-6886

Gloria
I live in Durham and am against this consolidation.
Sandra Atteberry
July 20, 2017

To: Steve Lambert, Supervisor 4th District

RE: LAFco report on Durham Mosquito Abatement District

I am a Trustee on the Durham Mosquito Abatement District Board and have been for over 20 years. I am against the proposed consolidation of the three Mosquito Districts.

This consolidation has been talked about and brought up by several Grand Juries over the years and nothing has ever happened. DMAD will be 100 years old next year, having been started in 1918.

One of the basic reasons, I believe, LAFco is again pushing this again is that Butte County Mosquito & Vector Control District is looking for more money. Each District took advantage in 2004 of Proposition 218 that allowed districts to assess property owners in their districts. This did help our budgets and enabled us to be more visible and viable.

Durham has had a shop building for several years for which we paid the county annually. When I started as a trustee, we met in that shop building summer and winter monthly. Our manager keeps on top of the communications from our citizens when there is a problem or an activity at the parks, schools, or Patrick Ranch. During Mosquito infestations he is on top of spraying the area to protect our children and citizens. I know that our manager sprays the borders at the rice fields, uses larvicide or adulticide and mosquito fish as needed. We can hire an aerial spray as needed. We had a few bumbs when we changed office personnel but we are on top of it now.

I read in the Chico ER when BCMVCD is spraying and in what area. How often does each area get sprayed?? This is one of the big questions from our Durham residences. I understand that aerial spray cannot be used over populated areas.

I believe that if there were some Jurisdictional Boundaries and Sphere of Influence adjustments that there would be no need to consolidate. We would be able to keep our Durham Mosquito Abatement District with some added areas as a viable resource for mosquito and vector control. As I live in Durham and have the benefit of our DMAD spraying, I have been pleased with the service.

Sandra Atteberry, Trustee
9227 Midway
Durham, CA 95938
From: Kathy Horn
To: Beth Stave
Subject: Durham Mosquito Issue
Date: Tuesday, July 25, 2017 8:58:08 AM

The idea of Durham being rolled into the County program is not acceptable. It is funded by Durham area residence. Works well, please leave it as is. The information put forth from Grand Jury I understand had some flawed information provided to them and was corrected after the report was written. I do NOT want any change, thank you.

Kathryn Horn
2370 Servia Street
Durham, California
95938
Sent from my iPhone
From: Troy Hetherwick
To: Bernie Saxe
Subject: Durham
Date: Tuesday, July 25, 2017 12:24:58 PM

Joseph,
The Durham mosquito abatement district is managing the problem well. There is just no room for error in this matter; the health issues are too serious, too prevalent, deadly.
Don't mess with it.

Thank you.
Troy Hetherwick
PO Box 632
Durham

Sent from my iPad