

# **Spheres of Influence And Municipal Service Reviews**

**Roseanne Chamberlain  
Amador LAFCO Executive Officer  
May 2, 2007**



STATE OF CALIFORNIA

# GROWTH WITHIN BOUNDS

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*Report of the  
Commission on Local Governance  
for the 21st Century*

# Spheres of Influence

- **Plan for the probable future boundaries of one agency: a city or district**
- **Requirements for Each SOI:**
  - **Resolution and Map**
  - **Four determinations by LAFCO**
  - **Additional local elements based on policies**
- **Coordinate services & plans**
- **Resolve turf issues**
- **Any person or agency may apply**
- **Subject to CEQA**

# **SOI Program Requirements**

- LAFCO must prepare for each agency and update at least every five years**
- LAFCO must make determinations**
- LAFCO must prepare service review (MSR) as a prerequisite to SOI review**
- Annexations must be consistent with SOI**

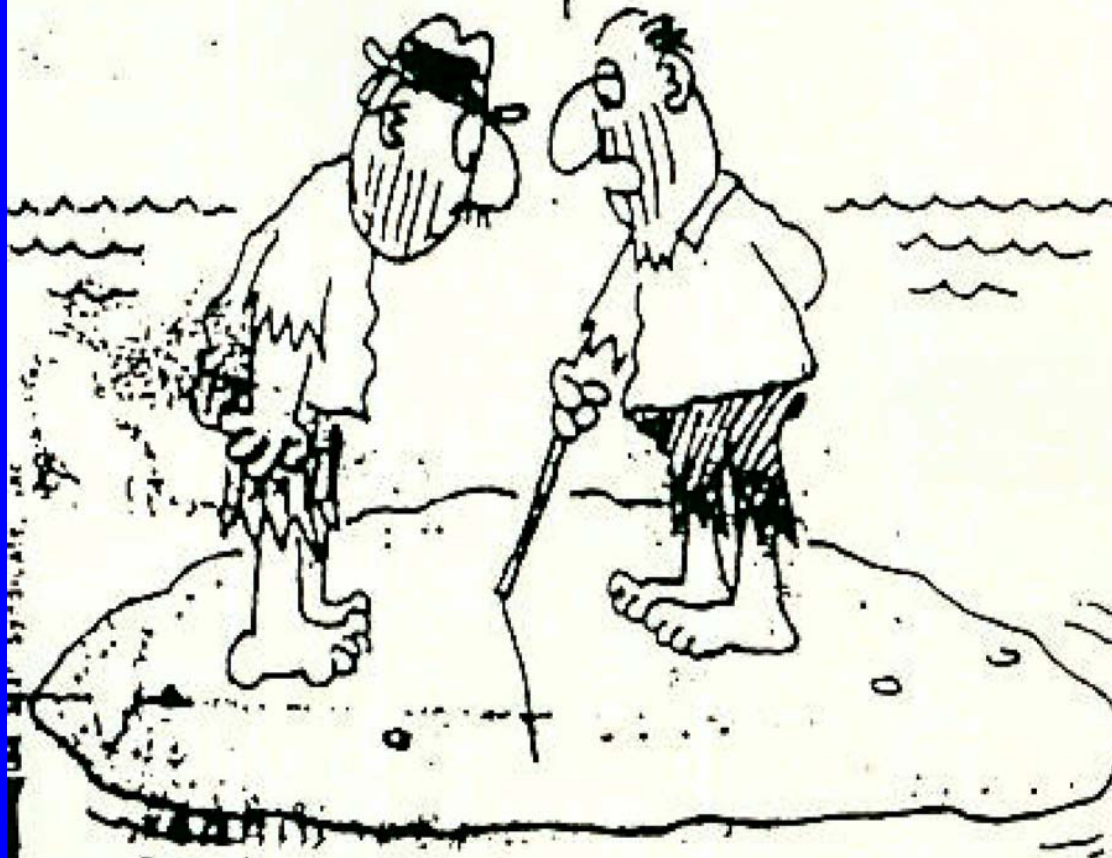
# Minimum Determinations

## Section 56425 (e)

- Present and Planned Land Uses
  - Including agriculture and open space uses
- Present and Probable Need for Public Facilities and Services
- Present Facilities Capacity & Service Adequacy
- Existence of Social & Economic Communities

# Fonwick

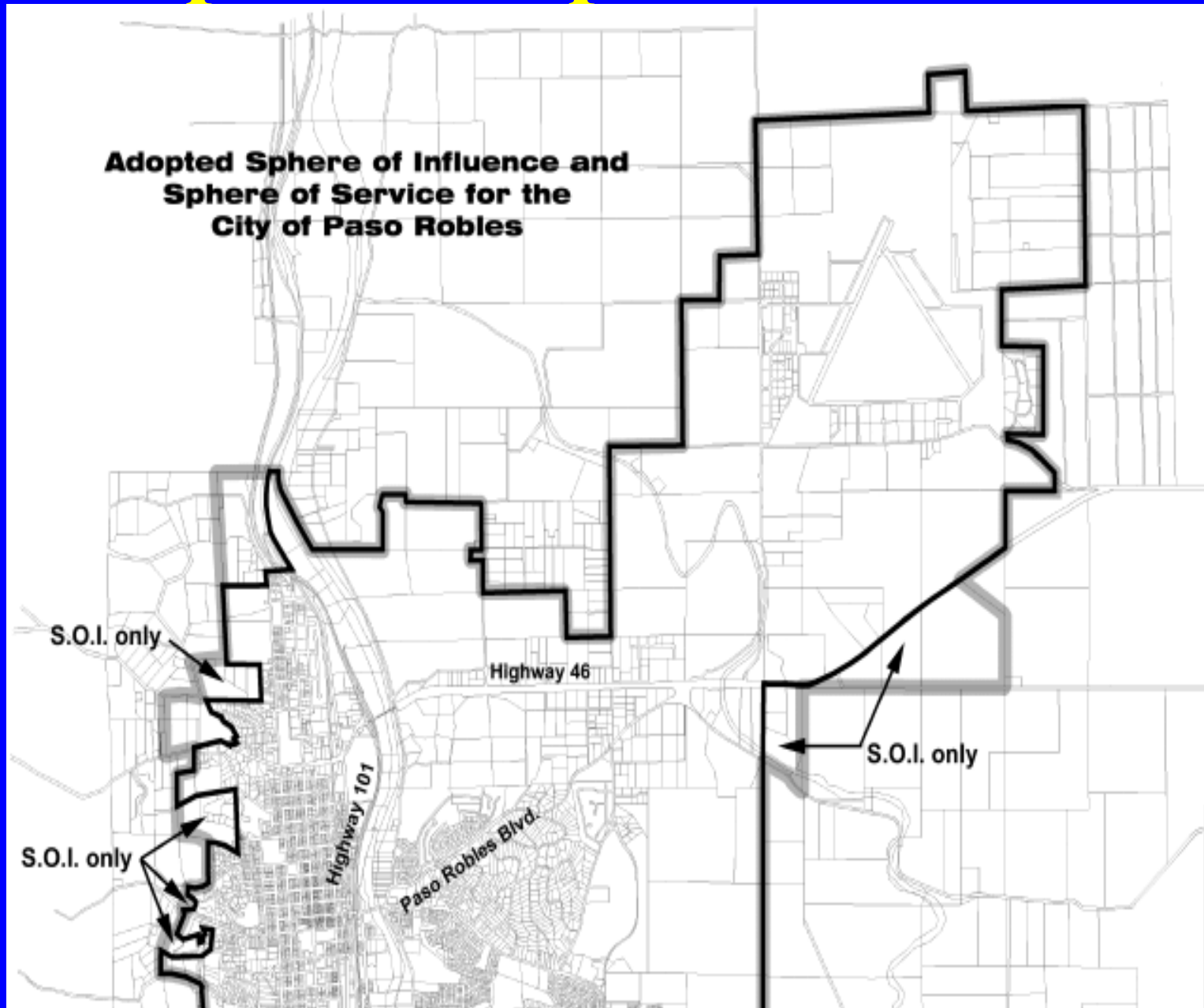
THAT SIDE OF THE LINE IS YOUR SPHERE OF INFLUENCE.... THIS SIDE OF THE LINE IS MY SPHERE OF INFLUENCE!



# City-County SOI Agreements

- Cities must meet with County 30 days prior to submitting SOI amendment to LAFCO
- Explore Agreement
  - Boundaries
  - Development standards
  - Zoning requirements
- If Agreement is reached, LAFCO must it “give great weight”

# Sphere Maps—“Normal”





# Other Sphere Types

- **Sphere can be larger or smaller than agency boundary**
- **Contiguous Sphere – same area as boundaries**
- **Zero Sphere – the agency will eventually serve no territory, i.e. go out of existence**

# Current Amador Spheres

## Districts

- 17 Districts
- Resolutions Adopted
- Most done in 1976
- No subsequent actions

## Cities

- 5 Cities
- Original SOI 1976
- Resolutions Adopted
- Subsequent Actions
  - Minute Orders
  - Some Denied
  - Not Always Clear

# Current City Spheres

- Amador City -- Coterminous - 1976
- Sutter Creek -- Clarification Pending
- Plymouth -- Original 1976 SOI
- Jackson -- Amendments Approved
- Ione -- Amendments Approved

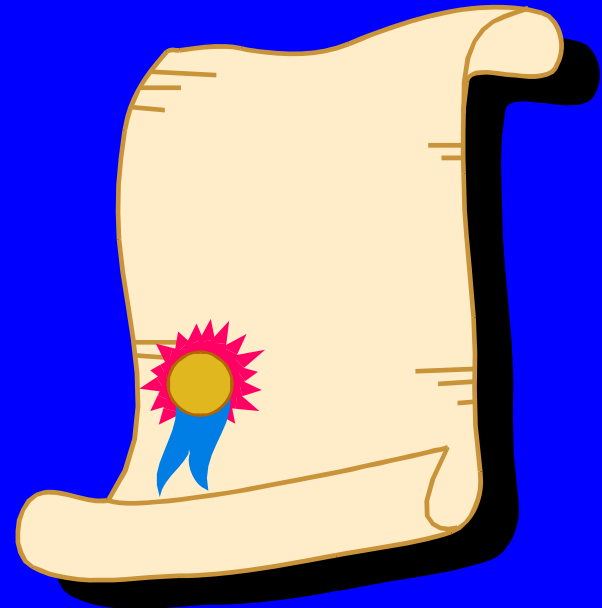
# Proposed Strategy

- Affirm Existing City Spheres of Influence
  1. Base Sphere Lines on available records
  2. Prepare GIS Maps
  3. CEQA Exempt - No Change
  4. Adopt Validating Resolutions (June 2007)
- Prepare MSR
- Amend/Update Each SOI

# Municipal Service Reviews

# Commission on Governance & AB2838

- Need for informed LAFCO Decisions
- Integrated Studies
- Need to Resolve Public Service Issues
- Link Services to Spheres of Influence
- Benefits to Public, State and Local Agencies



# Service Reviews

- **Comprehensive multi-agency studies**
- **Get away from single agency perspective and turf battles typical of individual sphere studies**
- **Customer/Public perspective**
- **Look for opportunities for more efficient public services**
- **OPR Guidelines for MSR's**
- *Need to complete before changes in any Sphere of Influence or by 1/1/2008*

# Review Requirements

- Municipal Services
- Identify Providers
  - Agencies
  - Non-governmental
- Identify Geographic Areas
- Review All Agencies
- Adopt Written Determinations
- Complete Reviews and Sphere Updates before 1/1/08





# Municipal Services Requirements

- All Services Provided by Public Agencies
  - Services provided by Agencies with Spheres
  - Includes Other Providers of these Services
- Excludes General County Services
  - i.e. Social Services, Courts
- Multiple Agencies Providing the Service
- Areas and Timing Decided by LAFCO

# Required Determinations

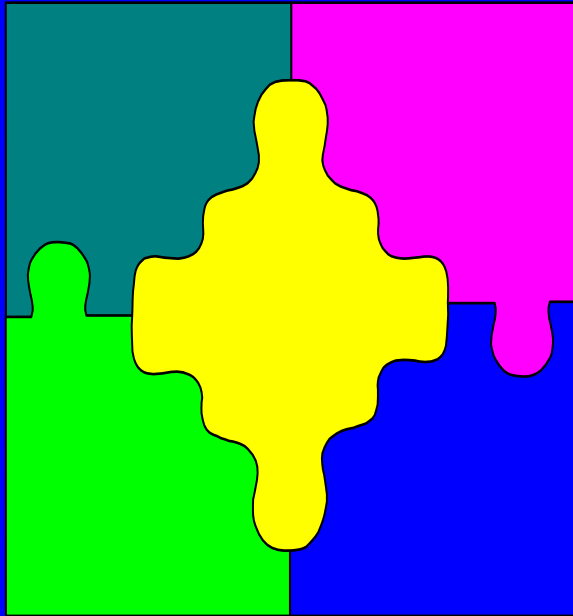
- Infrastructure Needs
- Growth Projections
- Financing Opportunities & Constraints
- Cost Avoidance Opportunities
  - Shared facilities
  - Government restructuring
- Management Efficiencies
- Rate restructuring
- Local accountability & governance

# Uses of Service Reviews



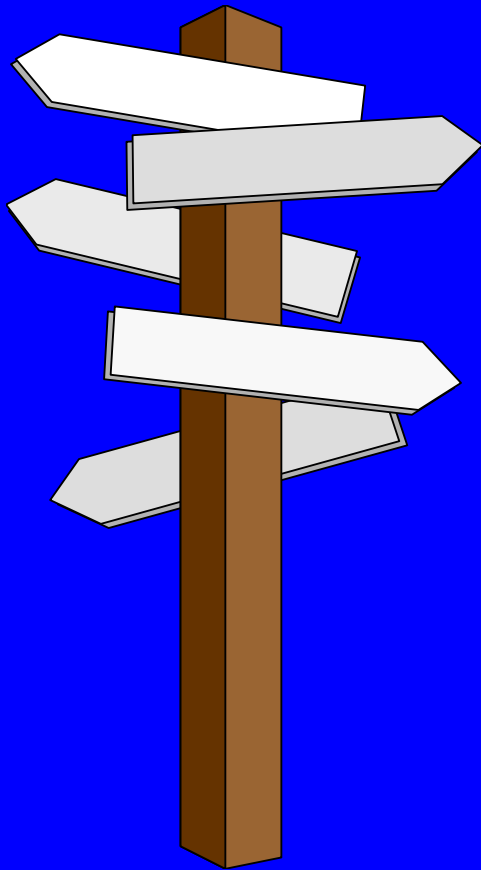
- Understand Services and Providers
- Enhance Coordination & Understanding Among Agencies
- Planning for Infrastructure
- Coordinate Services & Land Use
- Develop Strategies to Enhance Service and Lower Costs

# Spheres and Service Reviews



- Required to Establish Spheres of Influence
- Service Reviews for All Sphere Updates
- Every 5 Years
- Minor SOI Amendments

# What's Next



- Confirm Funding, Circulate RFP
- Select Consultant
- LAFCO May Adopt Guidelines
- Gather Descriptive Data
  - Compile Information
  - Identify Service Issues

# LAFCO Hearing & Determinations

- Prepare Analysis & Conclusions
- Issue Public Review Draft & Receive Comments
- Hold Hearing & Make Determinations
- Adopt MSR Resolution
- Individual Sphere Review and Updates