



BCHD Prepares for Municipal Services Review

LAFCO Commission oversees healthcare districts in Los Angeles County; Review is in accordance with state law regarding special districts

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REDONDO BEACH, Calif. (September 8, 2022) – Beach Cities Health District (BCHD) is undergoing its state-mandated Municipal Service Review (MSR) through the Los Angeles County Local Area Formation Commission (LAFCO), which issued its staff report about the county’s healthcare districts Wednesday.

LAFCOs are public agencies with county-wide jurisdiction tasked with overseeing changes to local government boundaries involving the formation and expansion of cities and special districts. State law mandates that LAFCOs prepare Municipal Service Reviews that provide a comprehensive analysis of municipal services including an evaluation of existing and future service conditions. There was a MSR conducted on BCHD in 2004, and the same report was reconfirmed by the LAFCO Commission in November 2012.

“The new LAFCO staff report is very thorough and looks at all the positive things our team is doing for the community, from providing COVID-19 information, testing and vaccines, working with local school districts, offering services for older adults and the many other services we provide to the Beach Cities community,” said Tom Bakaly, CEO for BCHD. “It’s important to note that LAFCO staff recognized our transparency and diligence in responding to public records act requests. We look forward to meeting with the commission next week to discuss the many good things we are doing at BCHD.”

The MSRs for both healthcare districts in Los Angeles County – Antelope Valley Healthcare District and BCHD – are on the agenda for the LAFCO commission meeting September 14 at 9 a.m.

In July, LAFCO circulated a draft copy of the MSR report to BCHD and other interested stakeholders, asking for comments and information that LAFCO staff will consider as they complete their final draft. BCHD staff reviewed the draft MSR and provided information to clarify or correct details in the report.

The staff report was released September 7, to be considered and discussed by the Commission at their Sept. 14 meeting. Among the highlights from the LAFCO Staff Report:

- The agenda item is for both healthcare districts in Los Angeles County, BCHD and the Antelope Valley Healthcare District, which operates the Antelope Valley Medical Center. It includes the MSR, the SOI update, the authorization of the functions and classes of services for each of the healthcare districts
- Currently, BCHD’s SOI is larger than its jurisdictional boundaries and LAFCO staff is recommending amending and reducing BCHD’s Sphere of influence to be in alignment with our existing jurisdictional boundaries, or a “coterminous SOI”—this is because since the adoption of the SOI in 1983, BCHD has made no efforts to expand our jurisdiction and have no plan to expand our jurisdiction in the foreseeable future.

- The report clarifies that there is no merit to claims that BCHD cannot provide services within our jurisdictional boundaries to people who live outside of our boundaries. The law does not impose a residency requirement for an individual who received services within the boundaries of a special district.
- The report states and reiterates that the proposed Healthy Living Campus project is outside of the statutory authority of LAFCO and that land decision issues fall to BCHD and the city of Redondo Beach.
- The determinations state that because the outcome of the Healthy Living Campus is unknown, the adequacy of BCHD to provide public services in the future, the planned capacity of public facilities and financial ability of BCHD to provide services in the future are unknown at this time and dependent on whether the Campus project will move forward.
- LAFCO staff concluded that BCHD operates in a transparent manner and highlighted the District's transparency awards, district and board recognition, and budget and finance awards.
- The staff report also mentions that while there are claims that BCHD is not being responsive to requests for public information, the data reflects that BCHD is making a diligent and concerted effort to be responsive to public records requests.

About Beach Cities Health District

Beach Cities Health District (BCHD) is a healthcare district focused on preventive health and serves the communities of Hermosa Beach, Manhattan Beach and Redondo Beach. Established in 1955 as a public agency, it offers an extensive range of dynamic health and wellness programs, with innovative services and facilities to promote health and prevent diseases across the lifespan. BCHD also operates AdventurePlex, a health and fitness facility where kids play their way to good health, and the Center for Health & Fitness, a comprehensive fitness center that is the only Medical Fitness Association-certified facility in California. BCHD was named the 2021 "Special District of the Year" by the Association of California Healthcare Districts. Visit www.bchd.org or call (310) 374-3426 for more information.

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