



August 27, 2020

Honorable John W. Vineyard  
Presiding Judge  
Superior Court of California, County of Riverside  
4050 Main Street  
Riverside, CA 92501

Riverside County Grand Jury  
Post Office Box 829  
Riverside, CA 92502

Riverside County Clerk-Recorder  
2720 Gateway Drive  
Riverside, CA 92507

**Re: Response to the 2019-2020 Grand Jury Report: SAVED BY THE TRASH, BUT FOR HOW LONG? Financing Supplemental Law Enforcement in the Southern Coachella Valley Community Services District**

Dear Judge Vineyard, et al.,

Pursuant to California Penal Code Section 933 et seq., please find below Riverside LAFCO's response to the above-entitled Grand Jury Report within the designated ninety (90) day response time period. Specifically, as required in the Grand Jury Report, Riverside LAFCO respectfully responds to Finding and Recommendation No. 5. Riverside LAFCO greatly appreciates and commends the work performed by the Grand Jury and the thoroughness and professionalism by those Grand Jurors involved in development of the overall report. Riverside LAFCO looks forward to working with the Grand Jury on any future endeavors the Grand Jury may engage in that requires our agency's participation.

**FINDING No. 5-** LAFCO has not written a Municipal Service Review (MSR), which was to be done every five years, since 2005.

**Response-** Riverside LAFCO partially disagrees with the Finding.

An MSR on the Southern Coachella Valley Community Service District (SCVCSD) has not been conducted since 2005. Government Code section 56425 requires LAFCOs to review and update, as necessary, spheres of influence not less than once every five years. Under Government Code section 56430, LAFCOs are required to conduct a municipal service review only when a sphere of influence needs to be updated or established.

**RECOMMENDATION No.5-** LAFCO immediately conduct a Municipal Service Review (MSR) for the District and the surrounding communities, as written in the LAFCO Municipal Service Review Guidelines.

**Response- This Recommendation will be implemented.**

Page 13 of the "LAFCO Municipal Service Review Guidelines" prepared by the Governor's Office of Planning and Research in August 2003 makes clear that the Guidelines are merely advisory and not regulatory. See <https://calafco.org/sites/default/files/resources/MSRGuidelines-FINAL.pdf>. Riverside LAFCO adopted a 5 Year Strategic Plan in January 2020 which includes targeted timeframes for completing review and possible updates of all Spheres of Influence and conducting MSRs for all agencies subject to LAFCO review, inclusive of all six Community Service Districts (CSDs). In April 2020, Riverside LAFCO adopted the Fiscal Year 2020/2021 Annual Action Plan for performance of the Strategic Plan Objectives. All six CSDs are scheduled for an SOI review, possible update and MSR in Fiscal Year 2020/2021, inclusive of SCVCSD. Work on the SOIs and MSRs has already been initiated by Riverside LAFCO staff and will be completed within this Fiscal Year.

Sincerely,



Steve Sanchez,  
Chairman, Riverside LAFCO

cc by email only: Tiffany N. North, Assistant County Counsel, Riverside County Office of  
County Counsel  
Riverside County Sheriff  
Riverside County Board of Supervisors