



**Solano Local Agency Formation Commission**

675 Texas St. Ste. 6700 • Fairfield, California 94533  
(707) 439-3897 • FAX: (707) 438-1788

**Staff Report**

DATE: October 19, 2015  
TO: Local Agency Formation Commission  
FROM: Elliot Mulberg, Executive Officer  
Michelle McIntyre, Analyst  
SUBJECT: **Dixon Resource Conservation District Sphere of Influence Update**

---

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends the Commission:

- 1) Approve the attached resolution for the Sphere of Influence Update for the Dixon Resource Conservation District (RCD).
- 2) Approve a Notice of Exemption pursuant to the California Quality Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

**BACKGROUND:**

Local Agency Formation Commissions (LAFCOs) are responsible under the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 (CKH Act) to regulate the formation and development of local governmental agencies and their municipal services. LAFCOs are charged with encouraging the orderly formation and development of all local governmental agencies in their respective counties in a manner that preserves agricultural and open-space lands, promotes the efficient extension of municipal services, and discourages urban sprawl. Some of LAFCO's duties include: regulating service delivery through annexations or detachments and forming, consolidating, or dissolving special districts. LAFCOs are also charged with developing and updating spheres of influences (SOI) for each local governmental agency within their purview and enacting policies designed to promote logical and orderly development of areas within the sphere. LAFCOs are required to review and update each agency's SOI every five years as necessary.

A SOI is defined as a plan for the probable physical boundaries and service area of a local agency, as determined by the Commission. The purpose in reviewing the SOI is to evaluate whether the probable boundary is appropriate, determine if the agency can feasibly provide well planned efficient services in this territory, and whether the current location of the SOI (or another location) will be a benefit to residents.

While CKH requires an update of the SOI every five years it also requires a current service review to accompany the SOI. At its June 2015 meeting, the Commission updated the Dixon RCD's municipal service review.

The District's SOI was last updated in 2006, at which time the Commission determined a coterminous sphere was appropriate. As required by CKH and the Commission's SOI policy, the Commission should now update the SOI for the District. Staff is recommending the Commission reaffirm a coterminous sphere for the Dixon RCD.

Agency Profile:

Dixon RCD was formed on September 2, 1952 to construct, operate, and maintain the Dixon Drain, which is a 70 mile long system of ditches designed to prevent or alleviate flooding on agriculture lands. The District currently oversees the operation and maintenance of the drain, which, while originally designed to remove only winter water, now also collects irrigation tailwater in spring and summer.

DETERMINATIONS:

LAFCO is required to consider and prepare written statements addressing the five factors enumerated California Government Code Section (G.C. §) 56425, including present and planned land uses in the area, present and probable need for public facilities and services, the present capacity of facilities and adequacy of services, the existence of any social or economic communities of interest, and the essential services, such as fire protection, water, and wastewater, to disadvantaged unincorporated communities.

**1. The present and planned land uses in the area, including agricultural and open space lands.**

Dixon RCD serves portions of both Solano and Yolo counties. The District borders Solano RCD in Solano County to the west and Yolo RCD in Yolo County to east and north (see attached map). Dixon RCD includes 180 square miles, about 65% of which are located in Solano County and the remaining 35% in the southern portion of Yolo County in an area known as the Yolo Bypass. Solano LAFCO is considered the principal LAFCO. Additionally, the District's boundary includes most of the City of Dixon.

In the unincorporated areas of the District, the present land use is predominately agricultural and limited industrial northeast of the City of Dixon. The vast majority of Dixon's city limits are within the District's boundary. The present land uses within the City of Dixon are largely residential, commercial, and industrial.

The planned uses in the unincorporated area will continue to be predominantly agriculture.

**2. The present and probable need for public facilities services in the area.**

The principal act that governs the District is Division 9 of the California Public Resources Code.<sup>1</sup> The principal act empowers resource conservation districts to control runoff, prevent and control soil erosion, protect water quality, develop storage and distribute water, improve land capabilities, and facilitate coordinated resource management efforts for watershed restoration and enhancement.<sup>2</sup>

There is a present and probable need in the territory for the existing services provided by Dixon RCD. Operating and maintaining ditches to remove winter water and collect irrigation tailwater in the spring and summer is a benefit to the lands within the District's boundary.

**3. The present capacity of public facilities and adequacy of public services that the agency provides or is authorized to provide.**

As indicated in the Dixon RCD's MSR, the District has sufficient capacity to provide adequate services to its existing service area; however, existing capacity would not be sufficient to serve future growth beyond current district boundaries. Should the District want to expand beyond its current boundary additional capacity, as related to drainage facilities, will have to be constructed. Since an expanded sphere would require additional facilities a coterminous sphere is appropriate for existing facilities and services.

**4. The existence of any social or economic communities of interest in the area if the commission determines that they are relevant to the agency.**

The District includes the City of Dixon in its boundary. This may be considered a social or economic community of interest. However cities typically do not receive or are they in need of RCD services as these services are primarily used in rural areas. There are no

---

<sup>1</sup> Public Resources Code §9001 et seq.

<sup>2</sup> Public Resources Code §9001.

other social or economic communities of interest as indicated in the Census Designated Places in Solano County.

5. **For an update of a sphere of influence of a city or special district that provides public facilities or services related to sewers, municipal and industrial water, or structural fire protection, that occurs pursuant to subdivision (g) on or after July 1, 2012, the present and probable need for those public facilities and services of any disadvantaged unincorporated communities within the existing sphere of influence.**

This factor is not applicable to the Dixon RCD as the District does not provide services related to sewers, municipal and industrial water, or structural fire protection. Furthermore there are no disadvantaged unincorporated communities in the existing SOI.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA):

Establishing, amending, or updating the SOI are considered projects subject to environmental review under CEQA. Staff recommends the Commission consider and adopt a coterminous sphere of influence. Since there is no anticipated change in services and no expansion of the service area boundary, there is no possibility that the activity in question, of updating the District's SOI, will have a significant effect on the environment. Therefore the recommendation of a coterminous sphere qualifies for the general rule exemption as defined in that Section 15061(b)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Commission approve the attached resolution for the Sphere of Influence update for the Dixon Resource Conservation District and approve the Notice of Exemption.

Attachments:

- A. Sphere of Influence Exhibit
- B. Proposed Resolution
- C. Notice of Exemption

**RESOLUTION NO. 15-\_\_\_**

**RESOLUTION OF THE LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION  
OF SOLANO APPROVING THE SPHERE OF INFLUENCE UPDATE OF THE DIXON RESOURCE  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

-----

**WHEREAS**, the Solano Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) is required to update spheres of influences of local governmental agencies whose jurisdictions are within Solano County in accordance the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 Government Code Section (G.C. §) 56000 et. seq.; and,

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to G.C. §56425 and the adopted Sphere of Influence (SOI) Policy of the Solano LAFCO, the LAFCO is required to update the SOI update every five years or as necessary; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Sphere of Influence of the Dixon Resource Conservation District (Dixon RCD) is due for an update; and,

**WHEREAS**, the proposed SOI is coterminous with district boundaries; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Executive Officer prepared an analysis and staff report including written determinations for the proposed SOI; and,

**WHEREAS**, LAFCO acting as the lead agency pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act prepared a Notice of Exemption which concludes that there is no possibility that updating the District's SOI, will have a significant effect on the environment pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3); and,

**WHEREAS**, a public hearing was held on October 19, 2015 at 1:30pm; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commission received and considered all written and oral testimony at said public hearing.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Commission certifies the Notice of Exemption adequate for the purposes of CEQA;

**AND THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that pursuant to G.C. §56425 the Commission makes the following determinations:

**1. The present and planned land uses in the area, including agricultural and open space lands.**

In the unincorporated areas of the District, the present land use is predominately agricultural and limited industrial northeast of the City of Dixon. The vast majority of Dixon's city limits are within the District's boundary. The present land uses within the City of Dixon are largely residential, commercial, and industrial.

The planned uses in the unincorporated area will continue to be predominantly agriculture.

**2. The present and probable need for public facilities services in the area.**

There is a present and probable need in the territory for the existing services provided by Dixon RCD. Operating and maintaining ditches to remove winter water and collect irrigation tailwater in the spring and summer is a benefit to the lands within the District's boundary.

**3. The present capacity of public facilities and adequacy of public services that the agency provides or is authorized to provide.**

As indicated in the Dixon RCD's municipal service review (MSR), the District has sufficient capacity to provide adequate services to its existing service area; however, existing capacity would not be sufficient to serve future growth. Should the District want to expand beyond its current boundary additional capacity, as related to drainage facilities, will have to be constructed. Since an expanded sphere would require additional facilities a coterminous sphere is appropriate for existing facilities and services.

**4. The existence of any social or economic communities of interest in the area if the commission determines that they are relevant to the agency.**

The District includes the City of Dixon in its boundary. This may be considered a social or economic community of interest. However cities typically do not receive or are they in need of RCD services as these services are primarily used in rural areas. There are no other social or economic communities of interest as indicated in the Census Designated Places in Solano County.

5. For an update of a sphere of influence of a city or special district that provides public facilities or services related to sewers, municipal and industrial water, or structural fire protection, that occurs pursuant to subdivision (g) on or after July 1, 2012, the present and probable need for those public facilities and services of any disadvantaged unincorporated communities within the existing sphere of influence.

This factor is not applicable to the Dixon RCD as the District does not provide services related to sewers, municipal and industrial water, or structural fire protection. Furthermore there are no disadvantaged unincorporated communities in the existing SOI.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ORDERED** that Sphere of Influence Map, included herein as *Exhibit A*, designating the Sphere of Influence, is hereby adopted by the Commission.

**UPON MOTION** of Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_ seconded by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_, the foregoing resolution is adopted this 19<sup>th</sup> day of October 2015 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

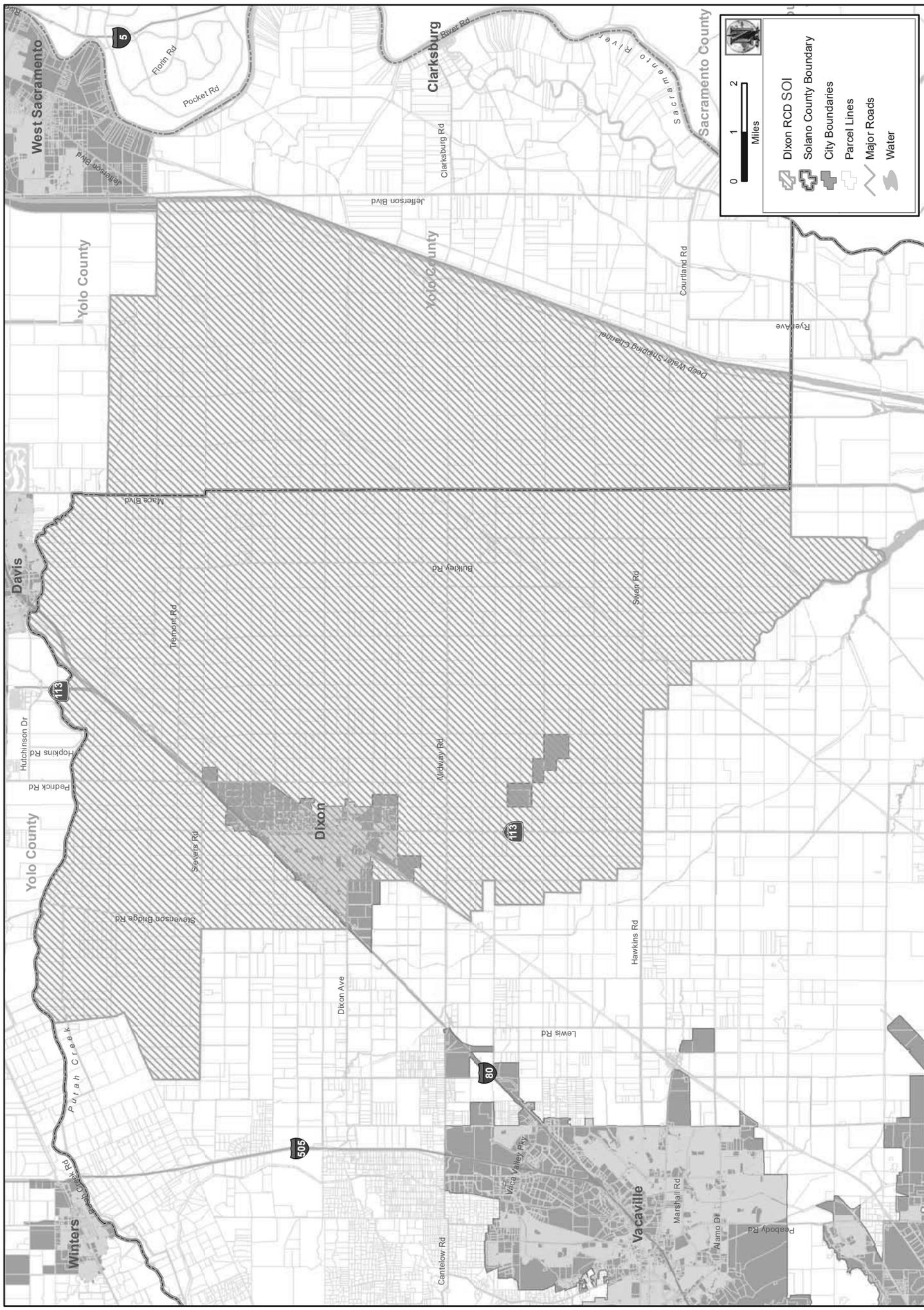
ABSTAIN:

\_\_\_\_\_  
John Saunderson, Chair  
Local Agency Formation Commission  
County of Solano, State of California

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Elliot Mulberg, Executive Officer

# Dixon Resource Conservation District



To:  Office of Planning and Research  
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121  
Sacramento, CA 95814

From: (Public Agency) Solano LAFCO  
675 Texas St. Ste. 6700  
(Address)  
Fairfield CA 94533

County Clerk  
County of Solano  
675 Texas St. Ste. 6500  
Fairfield CA 94533

**Project Title:** 2015-07 Dixon Resource Conservation District Sphere of Influence Update

**Project Location - Specific:** \_\_\_\_\_  
The City of Dixon and the surrounding unincorporated areas including portions of Yolo County

**Project Location - City:** Dixon      **Project Location - County:** Solano

**Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:**  
To establish a coterminous sphere of influence for the Dixon Resource Conservation District (DRCD)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** Solano LAFCO

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** Solano LAFCO

- Exempt Status:** *(check one)*
- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
  - Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
  - Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
  - Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: 15061(b)(3)
  - Statutory Exemptions. State code number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Reasons why project is exempt:** \_\_\_\_\_  
There is no possibility that establishing a sphere of influence that is coterminous with the DRCD's existing boundary  
\_\_\_\_\_  
could have a significant effect on the environment.

**Lead Agency**  
**Contact Person:** Elliot Mulberg, Executive Officer      Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 707-439-3898

- If filed by applicant:**
1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
  2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project?  Yes     No

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_      Date: 10/19/2015      Title: Executive Officer

- Signed by Lead Agency      Date received for filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_
- Signed by Applicant