



**Marin Local Agency Formation Commission**  
Regional Service Planning | Subdivision of the State of California

# Marin LAFCo MSR Workshop

**July 27, 2022**

**San Rafael Community Center**



# Welcome & Agenda

Rules for Workshop – Jason Fried

The Who, Why, and What of MSR Work – Jeren Seibel

Marin LAFCo MSR History and Current Round Update – Jason Fried

How the Sausage Gets Made – Jeren Seibel

What Do Other LAFCos Do For Their MSR Process – Jason Fried

Lessons Learned from Current Round – Jeren Seibel

Balancing MSR Work Moving Forward – Jason Fried

Break

Public Outreach on MSRs – Jason Fried

Philosophy on Post MSR Work Moving Forward – Jason Fried

Questions/Discussion for Next Round of MSRs – Jeren Seibel

Wrap-Up and Next Steps – Jason Fried



## The Why and the What of MSR Work

- What is LAFCo's overarching "Why"?
- Why do we need spheres of influence?
- Why do we do municipal service reviews?



# The Why and the What of MSR work

- What is a municipal service review?
- What are the minimum requirements for a municipal service review?
- What is a sphere of influence?
- What are the minimum requirements when establishing, amending, or updating an SOI?



## Marin LAFCo MSR Round History – Rounds 1-3

Round 1 – FY 2005-2007 (49 agencies – 425 pages)

5 MSR's – Bolinas Area (2 agencies), Inverness Area (2\*), Ross Valley Area (12), San Rafael Area (12), Southern Marin Sewer Services (11\*)

Round 2 – FY 2007-2011 (20 agencies – 399 pages)

6 MSR's - Southern Marin Sewer Agencies (6\*), Marin Healthcare District (1), Southern Marin Services (8), Tomales Area (1), Marin Resource Conservation District (1), Stinson Beach (3)

Round 3 – FY 2016-2018 (14 agencies – 818 pages)

3 MSR's – North Marin Water District SOI Update (1), Central Marin Wastewater (7), Marin Countywide Water (6\*)

\*Some agencies may have been included in the MSR but the MSR did not cover all aspects of the agencies in it.



## Marin LAFCo MSR Round History – Round 4

Started in Nov. 2018 expected to be completed in late 23/early 24

### Completed (48 agencies – 698 pages)

San Rafael Area – 9

Novato Area – 7

Tiburon Peninsula – 7

Upper Ross Valley – 7

Twin Cities – 6

West Marin – 12

### In Progress

Golden Gate – 8

### Still To Be Done

Southern Marin Wastewater - 5

Multi-Regional Study - 5

- Not included in this round are the 7 Central Marin wastewater agencies – CMSA, LGVSD, MPSMD, RVSD, SD2, SRSD, SQVSMD

- Marin County Flood District got split up into its individual zones



## Round 4 Post MSR Work Checklist

### Items Completed

- Dissolve CSA 23
- CSA 18 Boundary Change
- Dissolve CSA 25
- Policy Committee Review of Island Annexation Policy
- SOI Updates and fixes
- MPSMD/RVSD Consolidation\*

### Still Working On

- Strawberry RD dredging (on hold)
- Paradise Drive
- TFPD/Angel Island service
- Ross Valley Fire Reorganization
- Crest Road Boundary between San Anselmo and Ross
- SQVSMD/RVSD Consolidation\*
- Tiburon/Belvedere Boundary
- Work with FZ 10 on Boundary and future issues to address
- Possible Boundary Changes for MRC and SBFPD

### No Resolution Likely

- San Rafael Area Fire
- Belvedere annexed into TFPD
- Island annexations

\*Item left from Round 3



## How the Sausage Gets Made



- What kind of considerations and analysis go into creating an MSR?
- What are some of the considerations and evaluation criteria used for an SOI update?





## What Do Other LAFCos Do For Their MSR Process?

CKH Section 56425(g) – “On or before January 1, 2008, and every five years thereafter, the commission shall, as necessary, review and update each sphere of influence.”

Some LAFCo’s adhere to the 5-year rule while others do them “as necessary”.

Marin LAFCo’s current position is to complete the current round of MSRs as close to 5 years as possible.



# What Do Other LAFCos For Their MSR Process

The number of agencies that need an MSR based on the number of agencies in the county.

County	Population	#City/Towns	#Independent	#Dependent	#JPA	Total
Alameda	1,682,353	14	16	13	22	65
Contra Costa	1,165,927	19	40	30	0	89
Marin	250,666	11	30	24	5	70
San Francisco	873,965	0	0	0	0	0
San Mateo	764,442	20	21	14	0	55
Santa Clara	1,936,259	15	19	8	0	42
Napa	138,019	5	9	9	0	23
Solano	453,491	7	41	1	0	49
Sonoma*	488,863	9	56	?	?	

\*Sonoma did not respond to request. Staff counted the number of independent agencies from a 2013 report, but Sonoma has done consolidation of several fire agencies since then so not sure what the current number is.



## What Do Other LAFCos Do For Their MSR Process?

Styles – One agency at a time vs. review by region of different types of agencies vs. review of group of similar agencies

Depth of Review – High level review vs deep dive into each agency

Different level of review depending on type of agency and its functions.

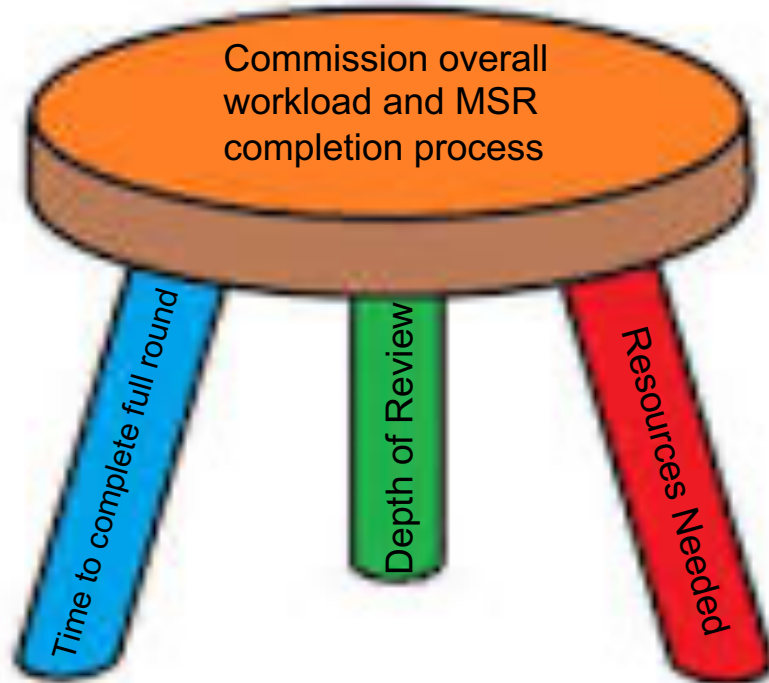


## Lessons Learned From Current Round

- Shared services are great, but we should be wary of recommending shared services between two agencies that are already minimally staffed.
- Production timelines are a moving target.
- Local input/feedback can be a double-edged sword.
- Uncomfortable conversations are critical for long term progress.
- One size does not fit all.



# Balancing MSR Work Moving Forward





## 5 MINUTE BREAK





## Public Outreach on MSR

- When this round was started, we had no list of members of the public to contact.
- With each regions MSR, staff has reached out to agencies being covered, members of the Board of Supervisors, and LAFCo Commissioners to create a list of members of the public to contact.
- Any member of the public who has talked with LAFCo staff has been added to a list to be used for the next time we do an MSR for that agency/area.
- Since the list will be a few years old, staff will need help in updating contacts as we move through the next round.



## Philosophy On Post MSR Work Moving Forward

When doing our current round the Commission took the following stances:

- Island Annexation – Currently move forward on island annexation only with support of local community who live in island and city/town support for annexation (No island annexations have been pursued due to lack of support)
- Shared Service – Support when there are chances to get it but not push this issue too hard. There does seem to be semi-regular discussion amongst some agencies about ways they can save money by working together. Only time it seems to move forward is when it is financially beneficial, or an agency is looking to fill staffing needs due to retirement or loss of staff. (We have done a workshop recently to help get people thinking about the subject matter in a new way.)





## Philosophy On Post MSR Work Moving Forward

- Identifying issue to address – We have taken an aggressive approach on identifying items we would like to see addressed. As discussed earlier some have been addressed, some are still being worked on, and some have been abandoned since a resolution looked unlikely.
- Continuity between staff and the identification of fringe/future issues with agencies within an MSR allowing for recall and reintroduction of discussions surrounding the issue upon the agency's next MSR.



## Questions/Discussion for Next Round of MSRs

- Regional approach vs agency type vs single agency
- Broad brush format changes
- Added areas of focus/analysis
- Analysis of Flood District
- How to handle agencies excluded from this round
- Complete full cycle within 5 years vs depth of review vs staff resources needed to complete



## Wrap-up and Next Steps

As we get closer to the completion of the current round of MSR's, staff will present a workplan for the next round based on discussion today. The Commission will then discuss and make any amendments prior to approval.



## Adjourn

For members of the general public, Email us at [staff@marinlafco.org](mailto:staff@marinlafco.org) to join our mailing list and know about future MSR's and other LAFCo activities.