



A Limited Liability Partnership • Est. 1939

Ernest A. Conant, Partner

May 11, 2016

Supervisor Lynn Compton, 4<sup>th</sup> District  
San Luis Obispo Board of Supervisors  
1055 Monterey, Room D-430  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

RE: Proposed Cuyama Basin Water District

We appreciate the opportunity to meet with you on April 27<sup>th</sup> to discuss you the proposed Cuyama Basin Water District and related topics.

The Petition to form the new district has now been completed and the application filed with Santa Barbara County LAFCO (SB LAFCO). A copy of the consolidated Petition with signature pages is attached for your information. It includes signatures from many landowners within the proposed District within San Luis Obispo County and your District, representing about 80% of the lands within San Luis Obispo County and about 70% of the lands within the overall proposed District. As we have discussed this is a proposal to establish an “off the shelf” California Water District in the Cuyama Valley, in large part to address the new Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and the desire to implement SGMA at a local level, in collaboration with the Counties. You may recall the Cuyama Valley is actually in four counties (San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura and Kern, although the portion in Kern is very small and not irrigated lands so not included in the propose District).

We believe it would be helpful if your County supported the formation of the proposed District in a letter to SB LAFCO, and that all those signing the petition within your County would appreciate that support. On behalf of our clients which are landowners within the proposed District within your County, namely Bolthouse Properties, LLC and Diamond Farming Company, we request that you provide a letter to SB LAFCO in support of formation of the proposed District. Attached is a suggested letter for your consideration.

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John Young 1913-2003 • Joseph Wooldridge 1913-1996 • A. Cameron Paulden 1927-1984

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If we can provide additional information, please contact me. Thank you for consideration of this request.

Very truly yours,



ERNEST A. CONANT

EAC:pam

Enclosures

**TO:**

Local Agency Formation Commission  
County of Santa Barbara  
105 East Anapamu Street, Rm 407  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

**To be filled in by LAFCO**

File No: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date Presented: \_\_\_\_\_  
Officially Filed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Designated as: \_\_\_\_\_  
LAFCO Action: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**PETITION FOR  
FORMATION OF THE  
CUYAMA BASIN WATER DISTRICT**

(pursuant to Government Code Sections 56700 and 56860; Water Code Section 34165)

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(Name of Proposal)

The undersigned by their signature hereon DO HEREBY REPRESENT REQUEST AND PETITION as follows:

1. **The proposal is made pursuant to Part 3, Division 3, and Title 5 of the California Government Code (commencing with Section 56000, Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000).**

2. **The nature of the proposed change of organization (i.e., annexation, detachment, Reorganization, etc.) is:**

to form a California Water District pursuant to Division 13 of the California Water Code (commencing at section 34000, the "Principle Act").

3. **The name or names of all districts and/or cities for which any such change or organization is proposed is as follows:**

"Cuyama Basin Water District".

4. **The names of all other affected counties, cities and districts are:**

This proposal affects three counties, namely Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo and Ventura, and is submitted to Santa Barbara LAFCO as the "principal county" having the greatest portion of the assessed value of all taxable property (Gov. Code § 56066). The proposed boundaries of the District would not include the Cuyama Community Services District, which would be an "island" within the proposed District.

5. The territory(ies) proposed for inclusion within the District is/are: **inhabited** (12 or more people).

(uninhabited (less than 12 people) or **inhabited** (12 or more people))

6. This proposal **is** / **is not** within the sphere of influence of the affected city and/or district. (Circle one)

7. Complete description of the exterior boundaries of the territory proposed for annexation. **Please attach legal description to this petition.**

Not Applicable.

8. Do the boundaries of the districts or cities listed above overlap or conflict with the boundaries of the proposed annexation?  Yes  No

If yes, justify the need for overlapping or conflicting boundaries:

The boundaries of the District to be formed overlap with a portion of the boundaries of Cachuma Resources Conservation District (RCD). The RCD indicated it has no interest in serving as the GSA for the Cuyama Basin, and the Petitioners wish to provide a vehicle for local management as described further at #14 A below.

9. List any of the districts or cities, as above-listed, which possess authority to perform the same or similar function as requested herein.

Not Applicable.

(Name of public agency or agencies)

10. Do the boundaries of the territory proposed split lines of assessment?  
 Yes  No, the proposed boundary for the District does not to split assessor parcels.

11. Do the boundaries of the territory proposed create an island or corridor of unincorporated territory or a strip?  Yes  No

If yes, justify the necessity for the island corridor or strip:

The proposed boundary will create one island for the Cuyama Community Services District, to enable it to continue to manage the groundwater resources under its existing authority.

12. If the proposed boundary follows a street or highway, does it follow the center of the street or highway?  Yes  No

Not Applicable

**13. It is desired that this proposal provide for and be made subject to the following terms and conditions:**

- A. The District, if formed, would cease to exist if a Proposition 218 Proceeding referenced at # 19 below is not conducted and an assessment to fund the District has not been approved by April 30, 2017, unless Santa Barbara LAFCO otherwise extends such deadline, or other arrangements are made for funding the District.

**14. The reasons for this proposal are:**

- A. The Cuyama Groundwater Basin is a major agricultural areas of the State that is not within an organized water or other similar type of district, and is totally dependent on use of groundwater. The purpose for forming the District would be to provide a public agency with the powers and abilities to, among other things, (i) administer, develop, construct and operate projects and programs to enhance water supplies to help stabilize the groundwater conditions in the Basin, and (ii) advance groundwater management and conservation programs and thereby pursue stabilizing the Basin and sustaining its resources for the beneficial use of all who use water within the proposed District. The need for local groundwater management was highlighted with adoption of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 (Water Code § 10720 et seq., "SGMA"), which requires for the Cuyama Basin that certain groundwater management actions be taken within the next approximately four years. This District will provide a governmental structure for local control and management within the proposed District to take approximate actions to comply with SGMA in coordination with the affected Counties and the Cuyama CSD.

**15. The persons signing this petition have signed as by holders of title to a majority of the area proposed for inclusions in the proposed District (Gov. Code § 56860; Water Code § 34153).**

**16. If the formation of a new district is included in the proposal:**

- A. The principal act(s) under which said district(s) is/are proposed to be formed is: the California Water District Law, Water Code Division 13, commencing at Water Code Section 34000;
- B. The proposed name(s) of the new district(s) is: "Cuyama Basin Water District;"
- C. The boundaries of the proposed new district(s) are as described in Exhibit(s) A, and as illustrated by the map at Exhibit B, both, heretofore incorporated herein.

**17. If an incorporation or formation of a district is in the proposal: Not Applicable.**

- A. The proposed name of the new city/district is: Cuyama Basin Water District
- B. Provisions are requested for appointment of: Not Applicable.



