



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE / WEIGHTS & MEASURES

Martin Settevendemie, Agricultural Commissioner / Sealer of Weights & Measures

DATE: November 6, 2019
TO: David Church, San Luis Obispo LAFCO Executive Officer
FROM: Lynda L. Auchinachie, Agriculture Department
SUBJECT: Morro Bay Sphere of Influence Amendment (3171)

Thank you for the opportunity to review the sphere of influence (SOI) application from the City of Morro Bay. The City is requesting that a future 368.7-acre remainder parcel be included into the City's SOI based on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City and the property owner of the 27.6-acre water reclamation facility (WRF) site. The application includes basic information, however, the land use justification and associated impact analysis and appropriate mitigation for including the 368.7 remainder parcel within the SOI are not.

The 368.7-acre site and surrounding area has a long history of supporting livestock production. The inclusion of this area within the Morro Bay SOI raises several questions regarding impacts to agricultural resources and policy consistency aimed at protecting agricultural resources. As part of the LAFCO review process, it is recommended that potential impacts to on and off-site agricultural resources be identified as well as the proposals consistency with all existing land use policies aimed at protecting agricultural resources. It should be noted that the application indicates the site does not contain prime farmland based on California Department of Conservation 2016 Important Farmlands Inventory. However, based on the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act's definition of "prime agricultural land" the site does contain prime agricultural land.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have questions, please call 781-5914.