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NEIGHBORHOODS, PLANNING &
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June 3, 1999

APPROVED
BY THE CITY COUNCIL

JUN 15 1999

City Council
Sacramento, California

OFFICE OF THE
CITY CLERK

Honorable Members in Session:

SUBJECT: CITY SPHERE OF INFLUENCE AND ANNEXATION POLICY (M99-013)

LOCATION AND COUNCIL DISTRICT: Citywide

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends that the City Council direct staff to report back in sixty days with a workprogram for a General Plan Amendment, to revise the City of Sacramento Sphere of Influence (SOI).

CONTACT PERSON: Gary Stonehouse, Planning Director
Don Lockhart, Associate Planner
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FOR COUNCIL MEETING OF: June 15, 1999 (Afternoon Session)

SUMMARY: From time to time, staff reports to the Council on issues occurring in the unincorporated portion of the County which may impact the City. This report is to update the Council on recent shifts in County policies regarding the proceedings of the Sacramento Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo), as may relate to the Sphere of Influence, (Attachment A).

At the direction of your Council, staff will develop a work program for the development of a major General Plan amendment concerning the Sphere of Influence (SOI), and Annexation policy. Of chief benefit to the process, this will place the City, rather than LAFCo, in the role of lead agency for the environmental review process. The amendment would include changes to the General Plan map and study area, which does not currently include all of the lands that should be considered for inclusion the SOI. No new land uses will be refined or proposed at this time. However, staff will propose policy language related to habitat conservation, and permanent open space



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uses, for environmental preservation, and Sacramento International Airport protection. Staff anticipates that the review of the General Plan amendment will require participation by many city and regional departments, if only to document the eventual ability to provide services. Also, staff will outline a public outreach effort for affected residents and/or landowners.

The processing of this General Plan amendment will not preclude annexations from occurring within the existing SOI. Staff will proceed with the two pending annexations: Willow Creek in South Natomas -36.7 acres, and the "Frying Panhandle" in North Natomas - 1499.5 acres.

COMMITTEE/COMMISSION ACTION: Not applicable.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The Sacramento metropolitan area is a dynamic, growing urban region. Complex urban issues do not respect jurisdictional boundaries, they impact both the City and the County. Air quality and water quality, transportation, and economic development are issues that must be addressed with a regional perspective.

Four key shifts in the local political landscape have occurred of late that may prompt the Council to revisit, and re-energize the City's policies regarding the Sphere of Influence and Annexation policy:

- ① LAFCo and the County are now in support of incorporation efforts which are "revenue neutral."
- ② Sacramento County is moving ahead with studying the possibility of amending the County General Plan Urban Services Boundary, which would allow for the planning of urban and suburban uses in the "Northern Territories" and related lands (immediately north of North Natomas). Adopted County policy is that the decision to urbanize that area should be made by the City, and yet the county is proceeding with the study, at the behest of interested landowners.
- ③ The North Natomas Settlement Agreement for the 1986 North Natomas Community Plan, which prohibited the City from planning for lands north of Elkhorn Boulevard has expired.
- ④ The City Manager has set a priority on having the City pro-actively determine its future, verses standing by and allowing the actions of others to decide the direction of the future growth of the City. (The proposed City of Elk Grove is immediately adjacent to much of the City's southern boundary. The possible future City of Rancho Cordova would be close to our eastern boundary -- leaving the community of Rosemont

sandwiched between Sacramento and Rancho Cordova.)

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS: None. Staff will address the financial considerations in the report back.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS: None. Staff will address the environmental review process in the report back.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS: The LAFCo is required to adopt a Sphere of Influence for each local government agency to facilitate orderly urban development, the preservation of agricultural lands, and the efficient delivery of municipal services. Also, the SOI is used by LAFCo for policy direction on annexations, municipal reorganizations, mergers and consolidations.

The existing SOI boundary was adopted by LAFCo in October 1981, after nine public hearings. It has been amended from time to time, in 1984, 1991, 1995, and 1996. The SOI represents the "ultimate" growth boundary and service area for the City.

The SOI does not necessarily represent a boundary for immediate annexations to the City. However, all proposed annexations must be located within the City's adopted SOI before they can be considered by LAFCo.

The SOI also serves the purpose of encouraging more intense cooperation and coordination between the City, County and affected special districts in those unincorporated areas that bear a direct relationship to the City's long-range planning actions and policies.

The General Plan includes several policies related to new growth areas, the SOI, annexations and local and regional government coordination.

Policy 4-New Growth Areas (Sec. 1-33), establishes that it is the policy of the City to approve development that promotes efficient growth patterns and public service extensions, and is compatible with adjacent developments.

Policy 7-Annexations (Sec 1-35), establishes that it is the policy of the City to work with the Sacramento Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) to adjust the City's Sphere of Influence to be in conformity with the City's Annexation Policy:

- ✓ to support annexations which are fiscally sound additions to the existing City;
- ✓ are consistent with state law and LAFCo standards and criteria;
- ✓ which preserve neighborhood identities;
- ✓ which ensure the provision of adequate municipal services;
- and ✓ are consistent with General Plan and Community Plan land use policies.

Policy 9-Local and Regional Government, (Sec. 1-36), establishes City policy in dealing with other local and regional governments. It is the policy of the City to cooperate with the region's various public jurisdictions on matters of mutual interest including social, environmental issues and land use policies. As such, the City recognizes the value and importance in planning for new growth and development in a reasonable manner.

ESBD CONSIDERATION: Not applicable.

Respectfully submitted,



GARY L. STONEHOUSE
Planning Director

APPROVED:



JACK CRIST

Deputy City Manager

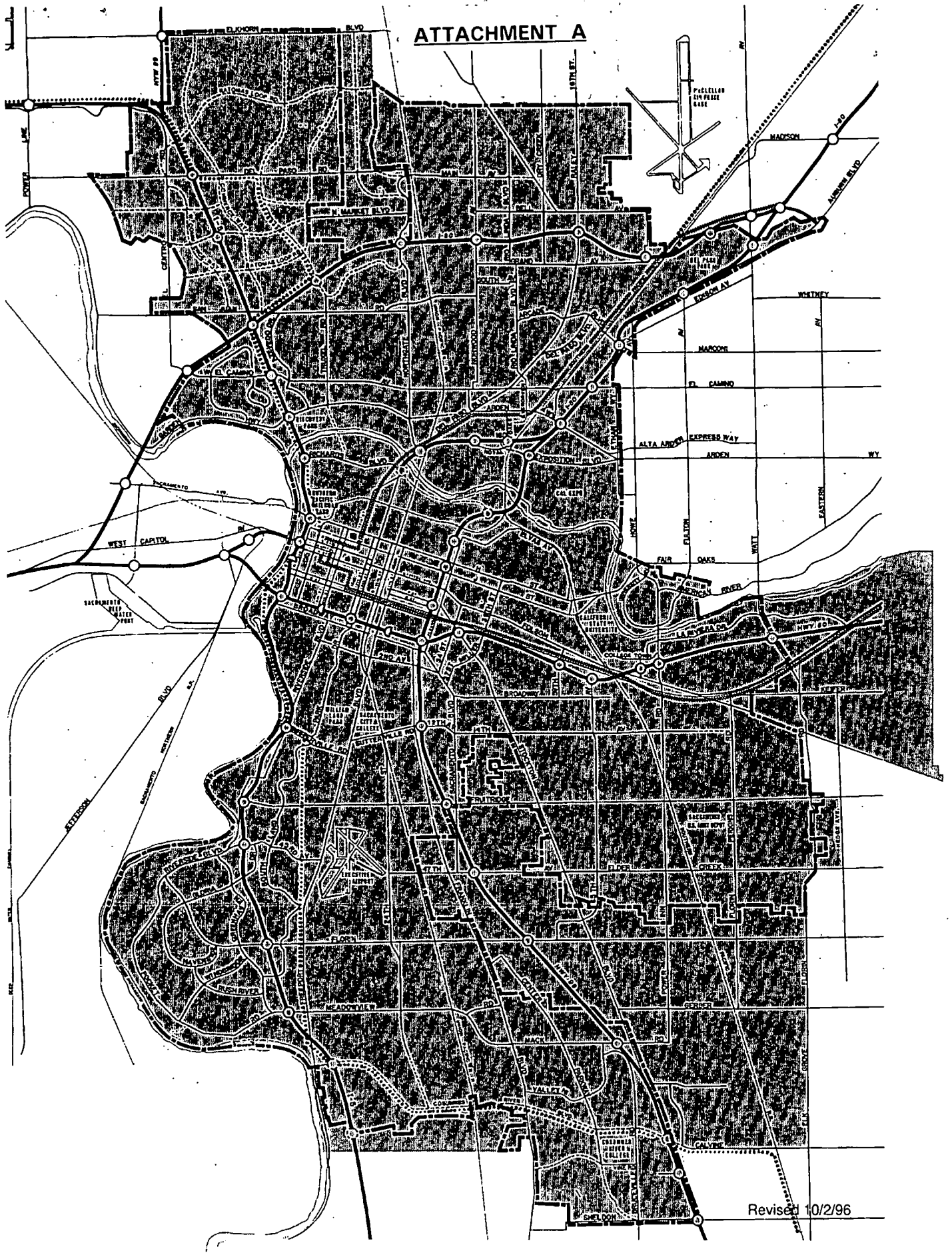
Neighborhoods, Planning, and Development Services

FOR CITY COUNCIL INFORMATION:
ROBERT P. THOMAS
City Manager

Attachments:

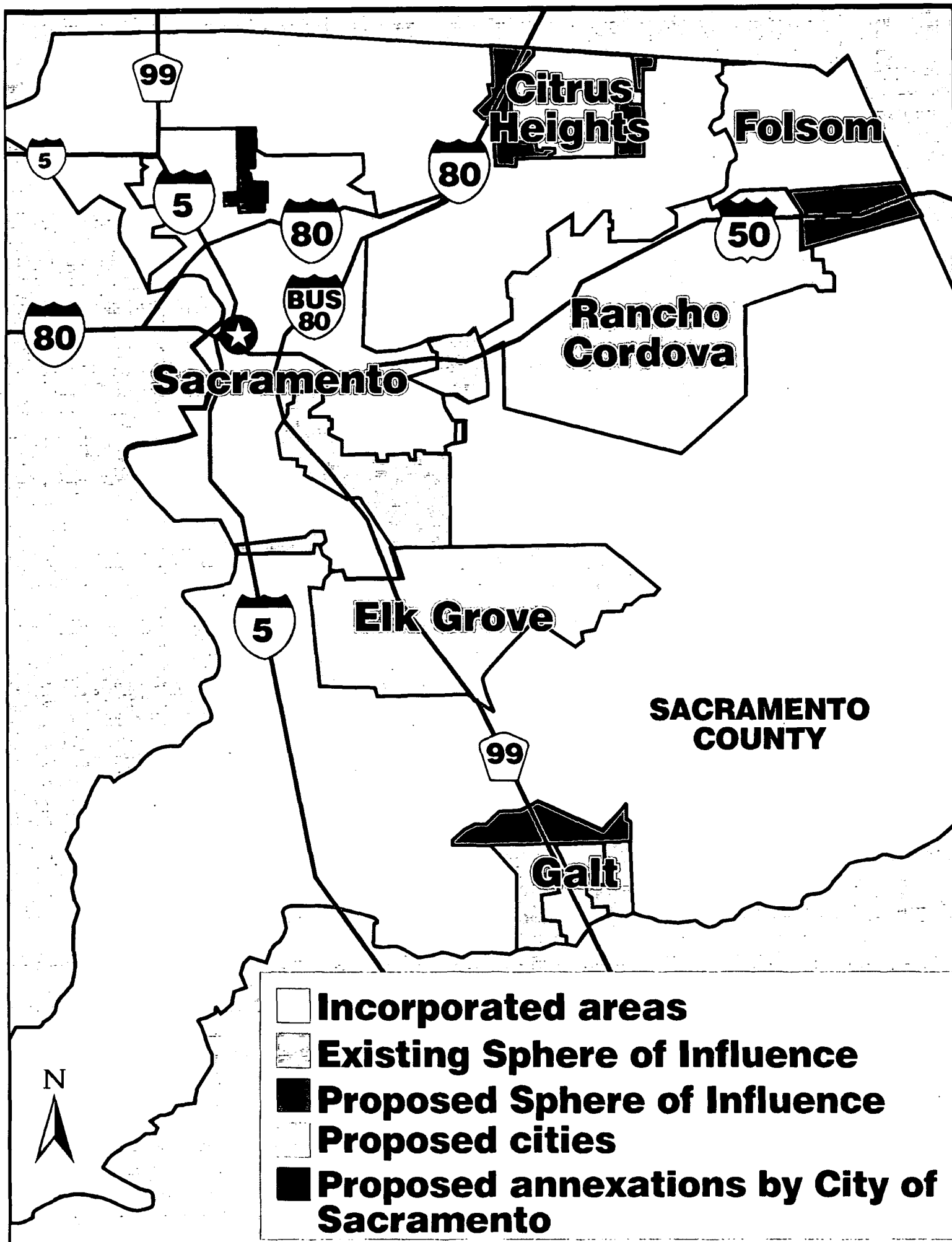
Attachment A Existing Sphere of Influence Boundary

ATTACHMENT A



City of Sacramento
Sphere of Influence

Revised 10/2/96



Citrus Heights

Folsom

Rancho Cordova

Sacramento

Elk Grove

Galt

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