



DIANNE JACOB
VICE-CHAIRWOMAN
SUPERVISOR, SECOND DISTRICT
SAN DIEGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA ITEM

DATE: July 23, 2008
TO: Board of Supervisors
SUBJECT: DESIGNATING THE COMMUNITY OF CANEBRAKE AS A COLONIA
(District: 2)

SUMMARY:

Overview

By federal definition, a colonia is an unincorporated community located within 150 miles of the United States-Mexico Border, with a population of less than 10,000 that is typically low-income. In addition, the community typically lacks safe, sanitary and sound housing as well as services such as potable water, adequate sewage systems, drainage, paved streets and utilities.

The County Board of Supervisors in previous years has designated the communities of Jacumba, Tecate and Lake Morena as colonias to assist with essential and basic services, such as housing, water and sewer. The Canebrake County Water District requests that the County of San Diego designate the community of Canebrake as a colonia to help establish eligibility for grants from the United States Department of Agriculture and the California Department of Housing and Community Development for infrastructure improvements. Today's action will adopt a resolution that will designate the community of Canebrake as a colonia.

Recommendation(s)

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN JACOB:

1. Adopt the resolution entitled: A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO DESIGNATING THE COMMUNITY OF CANEBRAKE AS A COLONIA.

Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact related to this proposal.

Business Impact Statement

N/A

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Advisory Board Statement

N/A

BACKGROUND:

By federal definition, a colonia is an unincorporated community located within 150 miles of the United States-Mexico Border, with a population of less than 10,000 that is typically low-income. In addition, the community typically lacks safe, sanitary and sound housing as well as services such as potable water, adequate sewage systems, drainage, paved streets and utilities.

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Canebrake, California is a community located in rural Eastern San Diego County and is approximately a 2 hour drive east of downtown San Diego. The community of Canebrake is surrounded by the Anza-Borrego Desert state park and bounded by various mountains, including Tierra Blanca and In Ko Pah. The water district covers a surface area of 962 acres within a drainage basin of 8.5 square miles, which drains east towards Carrizo Valley. It also provides 67,000 gallons of water to the residents from 2 potable reservoirs. In addition, the recorded temperatures in this area are found to be some of the hottest in the United States, reaching an average of 107°F in the summer. This mountainous desert landscape hosts a variety of drought-resistant plants, wildflowers and a number of valued animal species including, golden eagles, bighorn sheep and red diamond rattlesnakes.

The Canebrake County Water District is pursuing an avenue to apply for and obtain funding under the colonia status. The United States Department of Agriculture and the California Department of Housing and Community Development each have a pool of money designated to assist colonias. The Canebrake County Water District has a strong desire to secure grant funding to address the deficiencies in its water wells, distribution system and potable water storage facilities.

The present infrastructure is limiting their efforts of providing potable water to the residents and customers within the Water District. By having colonia designation, improvements to their system could be more feasible through the potential acquisition of outside grants. These grants could greatly help with bringing their facility to modern day standards. The Canebrake County Water District has formally requested that the County of San Diego designate the community of Canebrake as a colonia to help establish eligibility for grants from the United States Department of Agriculture and California Department of Housing and Community Development.

Canebrake's unique location and community circumstances will help the community obtain federal and state funding that is critical to public health, safety and welfare. I urge your support!

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Respectfully submitted,

DIANNE JACOB
VICE-CHAIRWOMAN
Supervisor, Second District

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AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET

CONCURRENCE(S)

COUNTY COUNSEL REVIEW	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	
Written Disclosure per County Charter Section 1000.1 Required	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
GROUP/AGENCY FINANCE DIRECTOR	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A
Requires Four Votes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
GROUP/AGENCY INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DIRECTOR	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A
COUNTY TECHNOLOGY OFFICE	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A

Other Concurrence(s): N/A

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: District 2

CONTACT PERSON(S):

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