

Nevada County  
Local  
Agency  
Formation  
Commission

LAFCo  
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<https://www.mynevadacounty.com/907>

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*Districts*

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*County*

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*Public Alternate*

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*Cities Alternate*

Lisa Swarthout  
*County Alternate*

Rich Johansen  
*Districts Alternate*

SR Jones  
*Executive Officer*

P. Scott Browne  
*Legal Counsel*

Deborah Gilcrest  
*Clerk/Analyst*

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A NEGATIVE DECLARATION AND  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
for the City of Grass Valley Sphere of Influence Plan Update**

**Notice is Hereby Given That** the Nevada County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) has determined that the Initial Study and Negative Declaration for the City of Grass Valley Sphere of Influence Plan Update (proposed project), described below will not result in a significant adverse impact on the environment. Therefore, in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), LAFCo is preparing to adopt a Negative Declaration (ND) as it provides the appropriate level of environmental review and disclosures and describes the appropriate level of commitments needed to ensure impacts are less than significant should the proposed project be approved and implemented. LAFCO based this determination on an Initial Study that analyzed the proposed Sphere of Influence boundaries for the City of Grass Valley and concluded the project as proposed would not result in any potentially significant environmental impacts.

**To:** Public Agencies, Organizations, and Interested Parties

**From:** Nevada County LAFCo  
950 Maidu Avenue  
Nevada City, CA 95959

**Project Location:** City of Grass Valley Sphere of Influence

**Project Description:**

The proposed project updates the SOI Plan for Grass Valley and includes the SOI areas around the City. The City has experienced varied rates of growth with relatively slow growth over the last decade. The SOI plan has been prepared in consideration of past growth, anticipated future growth, and the development patterns that have occurred and that are expected to occur that could result in increased demands for City and other utility services. More specifically, the SOI update area has been developed in consideration of anticipated growth and development; land use designations, including existing and any proposed changes; special land use limitations, including Williamson Act and designated open spaces; and an inventory and analysis of vacant lands.

The City of Grass Valley's boundaries include approximately 3,985 acres, with an additional 2,766 acres within the proposed SOI. The SOI is presently partitioned into two planning

horizons, which reflect an anticipated schedule for probable annexation. This includes the Near (those anticipated to be developed within approximately five years) and Long Term (this anticipated to be developed within approximately 20 years) Sphere Horizons, as well as to be considered an Area of Interest (areas that is not annexed but if developed by the County, the City will be notified and consulted).

**Public Comment:** The Initial Study/Negative Declaration will be available for the required 30-day review period for the City of Grass Valley Sphere of Influence Plan Update at <https://www.mynevadacounty.com/907/Local-Agency-Formation-Commission-LAFCo/>. The public review period begins on **March 15, 2024**, to **April 15, 2024**.

During the review period, written comments on the proposed City of Grass Valley Sphere of Influence Plan Update and Negative Declaration for the project may be submitted to:

Nevada County LAFCo  
Attn: SR Jones – Executive Officer  
950 Maidu Avenue  
Nevada City, CA 95959

Or via e-mail at: [LAFCO@nevadacountyca.gov](mailto:LAFCO@nevadacountyca.gov)

Final environmental determinations are made by the decision-making body, which in this case is the LAFCo Commission. The document will remain posted on the website after the close of the review period for interested parties and individuals to use as a reference should they want to provide comment on the proposed project at the scheduled public meeting/hearing.

**Public Hearing:** The public hearing for the proposed project will be held by the Nevada County LAFCo Commission and is planned for **May 16, 2024 at 9:30 AM**, or as soon thereafter as possible, at the address listed above, in the Board of Supervisors Chambers. The hearing will be On-Line via a Zoom Conference call and can be attended by any interested party.

Nevada LAFCo will post an agenda (and all documents associated with scheduled items) on or before May 10, 2024. Members of the public will be able to attend in person, or via this Zoom link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81344782452>

If the hearing is not held on the above date, interested parties are able to and are encouraged to check the Nevada County LAFCo webpage (<https://www.mynevadacounty.com/907/Local-Agency-Formation-Commission-LAFCo/>) for updated meeting times. The webpage will provide details on the new hearing date and Zoom information will be provided in the associated agenda. Nevada County LAFCo typically holds meetings/hearings on the second Thursday of each month.

**PLEASE NOTE:**

*To ensure delivery via e-mail, please do not send attachments larger than 1 MB. Nevada County LAFCo does not accept responsibility for any attachments rejected by our e-mail system due to file size.*

*Hours of public access at the Nevada County LAFCo office are 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday – Friday.*

*Hand delivered comments will only be accepted at the Nevada County LAFCo offices during the listed hours.*