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Katharine Ann Campbell
Public Member Alternate
George Williamson
Executive Officer
James M. Underwood
General Counsel
Kathy Bull
Manager

Agenda Item: 8.a.

Meeting Date: February 6, 2020

From: George Williamson, Executive Officer & Kathy Bull, Office Manager

Subject: Shasta LAFCO Website/E-mail Domain Change

Background:

The current Shasta LAFCO website is www.shasta.lafco.ca.gov with staff using the same shasta.lafco.ca.gov for e-mail addresses. In March, 2019 and again in January 2020, a representative from the California Department of Technology (CDT), blocked the use of Shasta LAFCO website and e-mails to and from the Executive officer and Office Manager without proper notice. This caused a lengthy disruption of service and required the services of Ryan Wildauer from Innovative Web Design who hosts the Shasta LAFCO website to resolve the issue.

While service has been restored, there is no assurance this will not happen again in the future by keeping with the domain of www.shasta.lafco.ca.gov.

Discussion:

CDT is a department is an agency within the State of California Government Operations Agency and holds statutory authority over information technology as well as maintaining the ca.gov government domain names. In March 2019, without proper notice, the Shasta LAFCO website was blocked due to a "Federal Emergency Directive 19-01" which required a change in administrator accounts. The website and e-mails were blocked for approximately 3 days. In January 2020, an update with the website host I.P. address occurred and Ryan Wildauer provided updated I.P. address information to the State. The website and e-mails became intermittently blocked for approximately 3 days with Ryan communicating with the State to resolve the issue. Without any notice, Shasta LAFCO website and e-mails then became completely blocked for approximately 5 days before the issue was finally resolved.

In order to keep the Shasta LAFCO "up and running", it is proposed that Shasta LAFCO use a non-state suffix domain name for website and e-mails. Shasta LAFCO staff has registered the www.shastalafco.org domain name. This domain name would become the new Shasta LAFCO web address. Many LAFCOs have already registered their own domain names and host their websites independent of the State and are reportedly not having any issues with the changeover. With Shasta LAFCO owning its own domain, LAFCO staff will be able to maintain and update this website along with the current website host. The domain name costs approximately \$20 per year to maintain, which is in addition to the website hosting costs.

Migration to this website will require notification to the public, vendors and agencies. Staff will provide such notification via e-mail, U.S. Mail and a public notice posted in the newspaper and on the website. Cost associated with this transition will be minimal. New e-mails assigned to the Executive Officer and Office Manager will be EO@shastalafco.org and Manager@shastalafco.org respectively. Staff will be able to provide a "forward" from the previous e-mails to new e-mails for a few months with an auto response providing the new-email address which will help with the changeover.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends the Commission approve the website and e-mail transition from shasta.lafco.ca.gov to www.shastalafco.org.